



# IOS NEWSLETTER

Vol. 20 No. 12

December 2013/Muharram-Safar 1435 H

## Thought for the Month

And verily the Hour will come:  
 There can be no doubt  
 About it, or about (the fact)  
 That Allah will raise up  
 All who are in the graves.  
 Yet there is among men  
 Such a one as disputes  
 About Allah, without knowledge,  
 Without guidance and without  
 A Book of Enlightenment,-  
 (Disadainfully) bending his side,  
 In order to lead (men) astray  
 From the Path of Allah:  
 For him there is disgrace  
 In this life, and on the Day  
 Of Judgement we shall  
 Make him taste the chastisement  
 Of burning (Fire)

Al-Quran- 22: 7-9

### EDITOR

*Prof. Sanghasen Singh*

### CIRCULATION MANAGER

*Syed Arshad Karim*

### CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

162, Jogabai Extension  
 Jamia Nagar, New Delhi  
 PIN-110025  
 India

Phone 26981187,  
 26989253, 26987467  
 Fax : 91-11-26981104

E-mail:  
[manzoor@ndf.vsnl.net.in](mailto:manzoor@ndf.vsnl.net.in)

## FOCUS

The asymmetrical conditions of market access imposed by Western mercantilism are designed to ensure that trade remains weighted in favour of the North. But, as well as being convinced of its mission to flood the world with its own products and to restrain their development elsewhere, the North draws endlessly upon the resources of the planet as if it were a big supermarket. With no problems in its path, this limitless expansion of consumption came to seem a synonym for progress. Over the last quarter of a century, however, as demographic pressure has grown more constricting and awareness of the planet's finiteness more acute, the consumerism of the rich countries has gradually ceased to be a model and turned into a scandal. Guzzler of air, water and space, producer of all kinds of noxious waste, shameless grabber of non-renewable common goods: this is how the North is perceived in the rest of the world, even when the resulting level of comfort is still an object of people's aspirations.

There may no longer be the same fear that humanity will soon start running short of raw materials and energy sources, but the prospect of changed conditions of human existence, as a result of man's own actions, no longer belongs to the realm of fiction. We know that none of the elements permitting life on earth has an unlimited potential for regeneration. To relieve the pressure on the ecosystem, now rightly considered a common human heritage, has become a major theme in international relations and in the repeated clashes between countries of the South – which wish to secure their future by gaining a fairer share of non-renewable resources – and rich nations braced to defend and extend their privileges.

Contrary to what speeches about crisis and stagnant consumption might lead one to suppose, the West today enjoys a larger share of global wealth than it had a decade ago; the consumption gap, far from closing, has continued to widen. In 1998 a fifth of the world's population, nearly 85 per cent of it living in Europe and North America, accounted for 86 per cent of all the consumption in the world – consumption which had doubled since 1975 and increased sixfold since 1950. Over the same period, mass consumption grew much more slowly in the developing countries, even if there was remarkable progress in a few of them. Thus, at the end of the 1990s, the richest 20 per cent of people on earth had an income roughly sixty times higher than that of the billion poorest (whereas in 1960 the ratio had been 'only' 30:1), and the world's richest countries cornered four-fifths of global income.

To guarantee a standard of living and consumption that its own sixth of the world's population was not willing to forgo, the North consumed at the turn of the century 60 per cent of the energy, 75 per cent of the metals, 85 per cent of the wood and 60 per cent of the foodstuffs produced on earth; it was home to three-quarters of the motor vehicles, produced three-quarters of all the solid waste, and poured into the atmosphere 54 per cent of the total quantity of carbon dioxide. In 1995 one person in the United States discharged some twenty tons of this gas into the atmosphere, nearly ten times more than a Chinese and twenty times more than an Indian.

*From Western Supremacy: The Triumph of an Idea by Sophie Bessis, pp. 121-122.*

## Activities of the IOS Headquarters

### Three-day International Conference on Revisiting Abul Qasim Al-Zahrawi's Legacy in Medicine and Surgery

The Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) in association with the Hyderabad-based Muslim Educational Social and Cultural Organisation (MESCO), Maulana Azad Education Foundation, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India and the India Islamic Cultural Centre organised a three-day international conference to mark the 1000th year of the death of Abu-al-Qasim al-Zahrawi, an all-time great physician and surgeon from Andalusia (Arab Spain) from December 13 to December 15 at India Islamic Culture Centre here.

The inaugural session on December 13 began with a recital from the holy Quran by Maulana Abdullah Tarique. Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Mr. K. Rahman Khan in his inaugural address described the meet as “one of the rarest conferences” he had attended in which a good number of scholars and ulema and muftis from the Muslim world were present. Recalling the contribution of Islam to peace and humanity, he said that the Muslim scholars took the message of the holy Quran and Hadith to the world outside.

He made a special mention of the period spanning 500 years that saw the glories of Islam soaring to new heights. Commenting on the present state of affairs of Muslims, he noted “the entire Islamic world is in turmoil and we are treated as a burden”. He deplored that “though the Muslims are blessed with wealth, yet it is not being properly utilised”.

The guest of honor, Union Minister for Water Resources, Mr. Harish Rawat said Islam as a religion spurs

one to service. Summing up the essence of Islam, he said Islam inculcates in people a sense of equality and dignity. He opined that life’s conflicting aspects should be integrated and reconciled to give shape to civilisation. Those who spoke in the inaugural session included the managing director and chief consultant, Hai Medicare and Research Institute, Patna, Dr. Ahmad Abdul Hai; senior faculty of medicine, King Fahad Medical City, Riyadh, KSA, Prof. Omar Hasan Kasule, president, Iraq Medical Association, scholar and writer of Arab and Muslim medical history, Iraq, Dr. Mahmoud al-Haj Kasim Mohammed, president, India Islamic Culture Centre, Mr. Sirajuddin Qureshi, organising secretary and

knowledge, but it goes waste if it fails to serve humanity”.

He lamented that three gifts of God; viz; healing, justice and education, had become business propositions. He drove home his point by stating that the Muslims did not enter into arms race as this would go against humanity. Muslims engaged themselves in the pursuit of knowledge leading to the advancement of science and technology, which benefited humanity.

Shaikh Gamal el-Deen Mohammed Kotb from Egypt said that there was no conflict between knowledge and Islam. He insisted that knowledge should be used for the welfare of humankind. Prof. Saud Alam Qasmi, Department of Sunni Theology, Aligarh Muslim

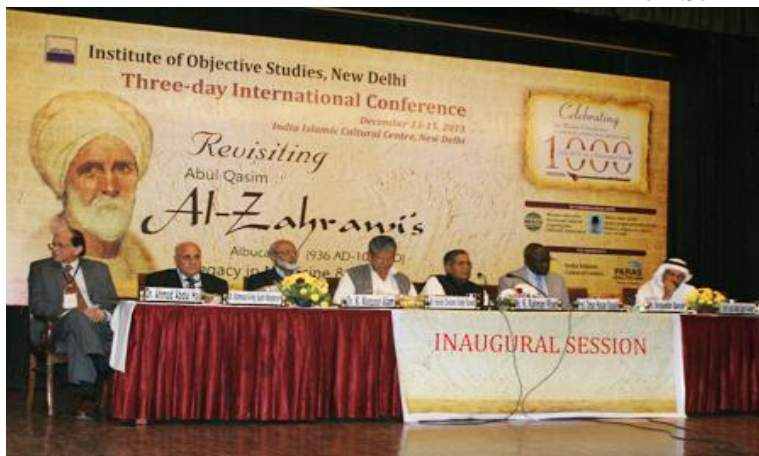
University, laid emphasis on personalised relationship of a doctor with his patient for proper treatment of an ailment. He said al-Zahrawi had pleaded for separation of Tibb (medical science) from theology and philosophy.

Nazim Imarat-e-Shariah, Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand, and

chairman, Bihar State Haj Committee, Maulana Anisur Rahman Qasmi,

differed with those who believed that al-Zahrawi and Ibn-Sina were contemporaries. He said that the meeting between the two noted medical practitioners is a distant possibility as the gap between the times of the two was too long. Ibn-Sina carved out a niche for himself 44 years after the death of al-Zahrawi. He pointed out that Islam always stood for separation of knowledge from livelihood.

President-cum-managing director, Quran, Science and Cosmos Trust, Wasi Ahmad Nomani, said that al-Zahrawi had studied at a madarsa (religious seminary) and learnt the Quran, which became the source of his knowledge about pregnancy. Dr. Mohammad Iftekhar lamented that



L-R: Dr. Ahmad Abdul Hai, Dr. Mahmoud Al-Haj Kasim Mohammed, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, Mr. Harish Chandra Singh Rawat, Mr. K. Rahman Khan, Prof. Omar Hasan Kasule, Dr. Salih Saad Abdul Qadir Al-Ansari

honorary secretary, MESCO, Hyderabad, Dr. Fakhruddin Mohammad and Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, Chairman, Institute of Objective Studies.

The plenary session in the evening was chaired by the chancellor of the Integral University, Lucknow and the chief editor of Al-Baas al-Islami, Maulana Dr. Saeed al-Azmi al-Nadwi. Founder-president of the Ibn-Sina Academy of Medicine and Sciences, Aligarh, and co-chairman of the session, Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman spoke on the rich legacy of al-Zahrawi. Secretary-General, Islamic Fiqh Academy (India), New Delhi, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani maintained “Allah enriches man with

today the population of Muslims was in crores, with lakhs of scientists among them, but none could match the status of al-Zahrawi. The reason for this failure may be traced to our detachment from Allah, he added.

Maulana Saeedur Rahman Azmi in his presidential address of the session underlined the need for following the teachings of the Quran and Hadith for a better future. The first day was also marked by the inauguration of a scientific exhibition and the display of instruments developed by al-Zahrawi.

## Day-2

The second day of the conference, December 14, 2013, began with the inauguration of poster presentation. While the first session of the second day was chaired by Dr. Syed Farooq from Delhi, Dr. Shahnaz Sheikh, professor of physiology, Mumbai co-chaired the session. The experts touched upon topics like, history of medicine, Tibb-e-Unani, Islamic perspective, ophthalmology,

orthopaedics, dentistry, surgical procedures, instruments, cauterisation, pharmacology and cupping therapy. While Mrs. Saba Anjum, Dept. of Islamic Studies, AMU, Aligarh presented her paper on history of medicine, Dr. Bilal Ahmed, Research Officer (Unani) SL-II, LRIUU, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi spoke on Tibbi-Unani. Dr. Ataullah Fahad, Asstt. Professor, AKTC, AMU, delivered his talk on dentistry and Dr. Nazmeen, Asstt. Professor, A & U Tibbia College, New Delhi spoke on surgery procedure. While instruments was the topic dealt with by Mr. Vasiur Rahman, AIIMS, New Delhi. Prof. Altaf Ahmed Azmi, ex-head, Centre for History of Medicine & Science, Jamia Hamdard, Dr. Mohd. Usman, guest faculty, AKTC, AMU, Aligarh and Abdus Salam Hamid Ghalib Yemeen, research scholar, AMU

presented their papers on cauterisation. The session had Mohd. Asalam and team, and M.A. Iqbal Rasheed from MESCO College of Pharmacy as speakers on pharmacology. General Secretary, CUIBT, Chennai, Dr. Syed M.M. Ameen shed light on cupping therapy.

The second day of the conference was divided between business session and parallel sessions. The number of sessions, and parallel sessions stood at four each. The first business session with the theme “The relevance of al-Zahrawi’s clinical methods and surgical procedures and instruments to modern medicine and surgery”, was chaired by Dr. Syed Farooq, D.Sc., New Delhi whereas the second session



A view of the audience

with the theme “al-Zahrawi’s holistic vision of health and disease and its relevance in the contemporary medical discourse: Islamic concept of physical health”, was chaired by Prof. Omar Hasan Kasule, Sr. Faculty of Medicine, King Fahad Medical City, Riyadh, KSA. The first business session was co-chaired by Prof. M. Amanullah Khan, Deptt. of Surgery, J.N. Medical College, AMU, Aligarh. The speakers at the session included Dr. Mahmoud al-Haj Kasim Mohammed, President, Iraq Medical Association, scholar and writer of Arab and Muslims medical history, Iraq; Prof. Dr. Maher Abdel Kader Mohamed Ali, professor of history, Alexandria University, Egypt;

Dr. S.M. Hassan, ex-deputy director, Central Council for Research

in Unani Medicine, Lucknow; Dr. Mohsin Raza, senior consultant, general d-surgeon, Aligarh; Prof. Iqbal Aziz, department of surgery, Faculty of Unani Medicine, Ajmal Khan Tibbia College, AMU, Aligarh; Hakeem Zillur Rahman, New Delhi and Dr. Mohd. Fazeel, asstt. director (Unani), Dept of AYUSH, Ministry of Health, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

The second business session was co-chaired by Dr. M. Yousuf Azam, professor of surgery, Hyderabad. The speakers at the session were Prof. M. Amanullah Khan, Dr. Abdul Karim Abshwereb, faculty of medicine, Tirpoli, Libya, M.S. Bukhari, managing director, SATCO, INTL, Qatar and Dr. Abu Waris Jamil, associate professor, faculty of Unani Medicine, AMU.

The third session with the theme, “al-Zahrawi’s contribution to orthopaedics and its contemporary relevance”, was chaired by Dr. M. Farooq of the Al-Shifa Multi-Speciality Hospital, Delhi co-chaired by Dr. Mamoud al-Haj Kasim

Mohammed, it had Dr. Rashid Qazi, HoD, Dept. of Surgery, Dr. M.I.J. Tibbiya College, Mumbai, Mufti Syed Baqar Arshad Qasmi from Bangalore and Hafiz Iqtidar Ahmed, P.G. scholar, faculty of Unani Medicine, AMU as speakers. The fourth business session was devoted to the theme “Al-Zahrawi’s contribution to Obstetrics and Gynaecology and its enduring significance”. While Dr. Fahmida Banoo MRCOG director, Feme Care, Hyderabad chaired the session, Dr. Nayyar Ferozan, from Hyderabad was its co-chairperson. The speakers at the session included, Dr. Yasmeen M. Ali, asstt. professor, Dr. MIJT Unani Medical College, Mumbai, Dr. Nikhat Shaikh, research officer (Unani), R.R.I.U.M, Chennai and Dr. Azma, research officer, LRIUM (CCRUM), Department of AYUSH, New Delhi.

There were four parallel sessions on the second day. While the first two parallel sessions focused on the themes, “Al-Zahrawi’s contribution to ophthalmology” and “Al-Zahrawi’s contribution to cupping (hijama)” respectively.

The last two parallel sessions revisited Al-Zahrawi’s contribution to surgery and dentistry respectively. While the first parallel session was chaired and co-chaired by Dr. Talal Aziz, director, MESCO Diagnostic, New Delhi and Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish, finance secretary, IOS respectively. The second parallel session was chaired and co-chaired by Ms. Shaikh Nowhere from Mumbai and Dr. Azmat Kareem, Metro Hospital, New Delhi respectively.

Those who presented their papers at the first parallel session included Dr. Safiya Lakhande, reader, Z.V.M. Unani Medical College, Pune, Dr. Abdul Moiz Shama, ophthalmologist, Aligarh, Dr. Mansoor A. Qureshi, RRI of Unani Medicine, Mumbai, Dr. Abdul Lateef, co-ordinator, DRS-I, AKTC, AMU and Dr. Umar Jahangir,

faculty of Unani Medicine, Jamia Hamdard. The speakers at the second parallel session were, Dr. Syed M.M. Amin, general secretary, CUIBT, Chennai, Dr. S.M. Ahmer, P-G scholar, faculty of Unani Medicine, AMU and Dr. Nazim Saifi, P-G scholar, A & U Tibbia College, New Delhi. While the third parallel session was chaired and co-chaired by Dr. M. Yousuf Azam, professor of surgery, Hyderabad and Prof. Abdul Ali, ex-professor, Deptt. Of Islamic Studies, AMU respectively. The fourth and the last parallel session was chaired by Dr. Deari Ahmed Ismael, member, Zahrawi Centre for Intellectual Studies, Kurdistan, Iraq respectively. Those who spoke at the third parallel session included Prof. Hamidullah Marazi, S.H. Institute of Islamic Studies, University of Kashmir,

Srinagar, Dr. S. Fazle Rab, director, IOS Patna chapter, Dr. Maaz Ahmed, reader, Dr. MIJT Unani Medical College, Mumbai, Dr. Salmanaz Akhtar Hussain, asstt. professor, Dr. MIJT Unani Medical College and Dr. Akbar Yaser from Chennai. The speakers at the fourth session were Dr. Nuzhat Ali, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad Dental College of AMU, Dr. Asfia Trannum, lecturer, Dr. MIJT Tibbia college, Mumbai, Dr. Farkhunda Jabin, asstt. professor A & U Tibbia College, AMU, Dr. Shaista Urooj, research officer, LRIUM, Jamia Hamdard and Dr. A. Latif, P-G scholar, AKTC, AMU.

### Day-3

The third and the last day of the



Dr. Salih Saad Abdul Qadir Al-Ansari delivering his views

conference had two business sessions devoted to “al-Zahrawi’s works and Tibb-e-Unani in South Asia” and “al-Zahrawi’s enduring contribution to pharmacology” respectively. Besides, there were two parallel sessions devoted to “al-Zahrawi’s contribution to cauterisation” and “al-Zahrawi’s contribution to global influence” respectively.

The parallel session on “al-Zahrawi’s contribution to global influence” was chaired by Dr. Abu Waris Jamil. Speaking at the session as co-chairman, Dr. Abdul Aziz Khan said that the 500-year period when the entire Arab world was at the height of its scientific, philosophical and technological excellence, was the “Dark Age” of Europe, which was living in ignorance and stagnation. This was the period when al-Zahrawi

(936-1013 A.D.) was engaged in practising medicine and surgery in Cordoba. Calling him the greatest surgeon of the Muslim era, he said that all the European surgeons used to consult his celebrated work on medical science Al-Tasrif. European surgeons were so impressed by his book that they got it translated into almost all the languages of Europe, he remarked.

Former scientist with the CSIR, Dr. Mohd. Khalil commented that al-Zahrawi made full use of his posting in the royal hospital where he came across patients to try his medicines and surgical instruments. Before al-Zahrawi, the use of surgery was rare. He introduced surgery to treat certain organs of the body. His opinion to avoid surgery of cancer if the whole malignant area could not be removed is relevant even today. Dr. Zubair Zafar Khan graphically explained that the names of certain diseases and development of surgical instruments and surgical procedures that were attributed to Europeans and Americans were in fact discovered by Muslims.

Dr. Mohammed Mushtak Tijarwi, lecturer, Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi gave a detailed account of the books written on al-Zahrawi. He especially referred to the Urdu translation of E.G. Brown’s book, Arabian Medicines. He said that a number of books had been produced on al-Zahrawi’s influence on Europe. Mohammed Raziul Islam Nadwi, secretary, Tasneefi Academy, Jamat-e-Islami Hind, explained that al-Zahrawi’s encyclopaedic book contained 30 chapters, out of which 27 chapters were devoted to medicine and only one chapter dealt with surgery. He said that al-Zahrawi wrote five books, al-Tasrif being the most talked about. He emphasised the need for publishing all his works.

Dr. Asif Iqbal insisted that al-Zahrawi travelled little, but gained wide experience in healing. He wrote extensively on injuries and fractures.

For him the welfare of his students, whom he called his “sons”, was paramount. Dr. Ghitreef Shahbaz Nadwi, sub-editor, Afkar-e-Milli, referred to al-Zahrawi’s prescription to stop bleeding and the method of stitching while Wadah Mohammed Talib from Aligarh spoke on Zahrawi’s contribution to surgery. Anis-ur-Rahman enlightened on the strides made by Arabs in the field of science. He referred to a European scholar who described al-Zahrawi’s book as “an encyclopaedia of medicine and surgery”. Dr. Farrukh Anwar Khan shed light on the contents of Zahrawi’s books. He also dwelt on the medical practices adopted and surgical instruments used by Zahrawi.

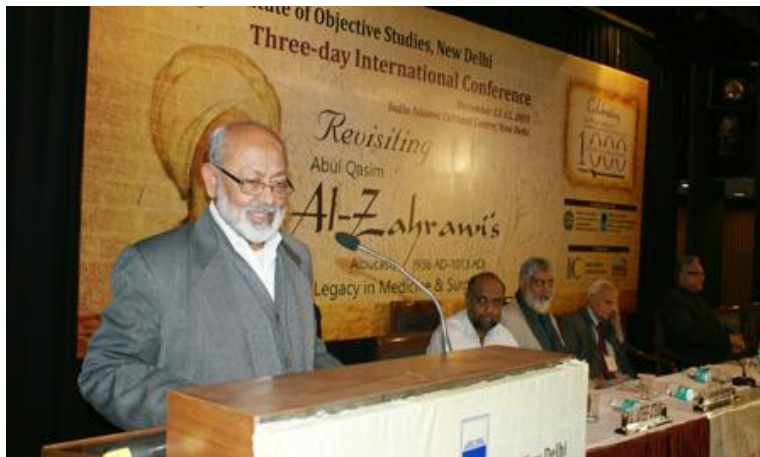
A panel discussion on “The prominence of Islamic perspective in al-Zahrawi’s contributions: Why Islamic world has not produced another Zahrawi in the last 1000 years?” was also organised on that day. This was chaired by Dr. Fakhruddin Mohammed, organising secretary of the conference.

Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, who was the co-chairman of the panel discussion observed that the Europeans surreptitiously used Islamic medicine and surgery to their own advantage with modifications. Instead of attributing their knowledge to Muslims, they took credit for it. He called for restoration of the original texts of medicine and surgery.

Prof. Mohammad Idris, head, P.G. Department, ISAG, Tibbia College, New Delhi observed that al-Zahrawi’s achievements formed part of our heritage. He said that systematic attempts were made to destroy Islamic heritage by targeting Iraq, Libya, Egypt, Syria, etc. He called for making all-out effort to guide our youth. He said the growth of a country was gauged by the number of its publications and patents. Dr. Karim went into the causes of Muslim

deterioration and held that Muslims themselves were responsible for it. He said that a great responsibility devolved on the ulema whose role was vital for the promotion of science.

Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam laid emphasis on education. He said nothing worthwhile could be achieved without education. While disapproving of the comparison of one with the other, he said that the improvement of one over the other should be the determining factor. He listed three factors – preservation, management and development, for a heritage to survive and grow. Development, if based on reasoning and strategy, would be sustainable, he added.



Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam delivering his speech

Professor of surgery, J.N. Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Prof. M. Amanullah Khan remarked that the surgical instruments invented by al-Zahrawi had been modified with the advancement of technology.

Dr. Kareem Ahmad Muhammad al-Dawoodi, member, Zahrawi Centre for Intellectual Studies, Kurdistan, Iraq, and Dr. Abdul Karim Abushwereb, Faculty of Medicine, Tripoli, Libya recalled the heyday of Islamic culture and called for universal Muslim brotherhood. In his presidential address, Dr. Fakhruddin Mohammad urged Muslims to revisit the Quran and to root for the Islamic heritage.

### Valedictory Session

The valedictory session was chaired by Dr. Mohammad Manzoor

Alam, who detailed the activities of the Institute of Objective Studies during 27 years of its existence. He informed that more than 100 conferences on the Islamic heritage had been organised during the period. Explaining reasons for agreeing to hold the conference, he said that the purpose fitted into the parameters of the IOS. He expressed his gratitude to the participants for extending active cooperation to the conference. He made a fervent plea to the Arab delegates to give access to the literature pertaining to the contribution of Muslims to various fields for translation in India.

He volunteered to undertake the translation project. He said that Islam stood for peace, progress and dignity. “Since we stopped following the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah, dignity was eluding us”, he said. Sharing his experience, he said that he forgot everything for 36 months while studying the Quran. He also recalled how he had to convince the ulema while establishing the IOS. He invited everybody, especially the youth, to join hands for forging ahead. He

concluded by reciting a couplet. “Kamaal yeh nahin hai ke baarish kitni huyee hai; kamaal yeh hai ke pehla qatra kaun banaa hai (Greatness does not lie in the volume of the rain; It lies in becoming its first drop.)

Conducted by Sheikh Nizamuddin, the valedictory session had Prof. Refaqt Ali Khan, Vice-Chairman, IOS and Co-Chairman and Justice MSA Siddiqui, Chairman, National Council for Minorities Educational Institutions, as chief guest. Speaking at the session, Prof. Refaqt Ali Khan observed that the three-day conference was ending on a happy note.

He was of the view that power had nothing to do with scientific research as they were at variance with each other. He thanked the non-Muslim friends for extending cooperation to the organisers of the conference.

Justice MSA Siddiqui, in his thought-provoking address, referred to salaah (prayer) which is used 150 times in the Quran. By the beginning of the 7th century A.D., a group emerged that altered the meaning. He said that the religious leaders of Greece had the rich intellectual property, but they kept it unto themselves.

Muslims got the Greek literature translated and spread the knowledge of science all over the world. Commenting on the present state of affairs of the Muslim world, he said this was an anxious moment. Despite the sizeable presence of Muslims in 58 countries, and with a population of about 1500 million and control over world's 75 percent natural resources, they cannot boast of a university that can be counted as one of the best institutions.

Dr. Abdul Hai referred to Prof. William Brown's research confirming the Quran's disclosure that plants send waves. He spurred the Muslims to come out of slumber and work for the preservation of their cultural heritage. Dr. Abdul Hai noted how he came across al-Zahrawi

while poring over a book in the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Library, Patna.

Dr. Mahmoud Al-Haj Kasim Mohammed also spoke on the occasion. Dr. Fakhruddin Mohammed expressed happiness that the three-day conference attracted a large number of scholars, medical experts, surgeons and ulema who converged on the venue to share their knowledge with the audience, who collected in full strength.

### Resolution

Dr. Fakhruddin moved the following resolution which was adopted by a voice vote. First eight points of the resolution concerned the Government of India and the rest related to the community/NGOs.

The first five points of the resolution are as follows:

- To represent and request the Government of India – Postal Deptt. to release 1000-year stamp to commemorate thousand years of “Father of Surgery”.
- To request and represent to Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to name one of the six new AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) in memory of Abu al-Qasim al-Zahrawi.
- To establish a “museum” to exhibit replicas of all his instruments, illustrations, surgical procedures, manuscripts and models with the help of Government of India, Ministry of Culture.
- To permit and sponsor the visit of



Mr. K. Rahman Khan, delivering his views



Mr. Harish Rawat delivering his speech

exhibition “1001 inventions” by Islamic Heritage, Manchester, U.K., on the occasion of 1001 years of Abu al-Qasim al-Zahrawi in the year 2014.

- The exhibition will be held at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Jaipur etc. from October to December 2014.
- To form a committee to study the history of medicine and include the life and times of al-Zahrawi and other Muslim scientists in medical curricula.
- An International conference on Tibbe-e-Nabwi and Tibb-e-Islami will be held in November 2014.
- To institute annual scholarships, awards and lectures in different medical and Unani colleges in the country with the Medical Council of India

The points of Resolution for the community/NGOs are as follows:

- To establish a foundation trust society with the following aim and objectives:
- To study the contribution of Muslims to history, medicine, social sciences, technology and sciences.
- To undertake research in the subjects mentioned above
- To award scholarships, gold medals
- To organise Lectures, Seminars, Conferences
- To have an intellectual forum – Federation of Muslim Physicians for development strategy for Education (a) Medical Education (b) Allied Health Sciences (c) Physical Medical (d) Health Awareness (a) Instrumentation (b) Halal Product Clean Environment: Pollution Permit (a) Water (b) Air (c) Earth (d) Life Style Dinner – Presentation (e) Health (f) Diabetes (g) Obesity

Relief Medical Campus Disaster Management

International conference should be organised over every three years on Islamic Medicines and Tibb-e-Nabwi.

During the three-day international conference, MESCO and ILM Foundation, Hyderabad had jointly organised the exhibition on the contribution of al-Zahrawi in the field of medical science on 40 display stands, including other Muslim scientists. The main attraction of the exhibition was 30 replicas of al-Zahrawi's surgical instruments. The Turkish museum had provided displays of al-Zahrawi's surgical instruments along with their descriptions.

While registration forms were filled by about 400 participants, about 700 participants actually participated in

various sessions. A total number of 17 sessions were held with the number of speakers in the inaugural, valedictory and ulema sessions being 25. The number of paper presentations and poster presenters stood at 95 and 17 respectively.

*Contd. from page-8*

The credit for introducing experimentation method in sciences must go to the Muslims. They subjected the knowledge received from others to critical scrutiny and approved of what was experimentally true. And then they advanced and developed the existing knowledge by infusing new blood in it. They also invented large number of new things like Algebra. Their intellectual contribution had a lasting effect on European renaissance.

A great quality of Muslim intellectuals was that they had a universalist worldview. They considered knowledge as a common fund of humanity. This approach persuaded them to acquire knowledge from the conquered people. Similarly they gave knowledge to one and all and never discriminated against any one based on his religion, colour and race. Their belief was that knowledge was from God on which all human beings had equal right. And most beautifully they believed that knowledge was the only thing that doesn't decrease after giving. Intellectually they have indeed been the most generous people.

## Calendar 2014

The IOS calendar 2014 has been published. Agents, Shop-keepers and others may place their order with the IOS Headquarters.

The Four-Page calendar has the following feature:

- Page-1 Mosques through the Ages
- Page-2 World: Global Hunger Index (GHI) Scores 1996, 2001 and 2012
- Page-3 World: Country-wise Diabetes Prevalence (%) 1995, 2000 and 2010 for Population (Number of Adults ages  $\geq 20$  years)
- Page-4 India: Distribution of Pre-matric Scholarship for Muslim Minority Community students 2010-11 & 2011-12

The calendar may also be obtained from

### Qazi Publishers & Distributors

B-35, Basement, Nizamuddin West  
New Delhi-110013  
Tel.: 011-24352732

Email: qazipublishers@yahoo.com

Price per calendar Rs. 25/-  
(include packing, excludes postage)  
US\$ 1 (including packing excludes postage)

## Islamic Approach to Knowledge *by Ishtiyaque Danish*

The views expressed in the article do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of the Newsletter (editor)

The contribution of Islamic civilization to knowledge, the common fund of humanity, is enormous. Knowledge occupies an esteemed position in Islam. The very first verses that were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) speak about knowledge and its acquisition. God has given countless blessings to man but the one he chose to mention in the very first verses is knowledge which shows its importance in Islam. The Quran has described the Prophet as the one who teaches al-Kitab and al-Hikmah to mankind. The Prophet also declared that acquisition of knowledge is obligatory on every Muslim. An incident that took place after the Battle of Badr also emphasizes the central position of knowledge in Islamic scheme of things. Some prisoners of war who were unable to buy their freedom after paying a ransom were asked to teach Muslims the art of reading and writing. One has to stop and ponder that who were these prisoners of war? They were the unbelievers from Makkah who had persecuted the Prophet there and now had come to Madina to fight and kill him. These bitter enemies of Islam, in a sense, were appointed by the Islamic state as teachers of the Prophet's companions. This historical event illustrates the importance of knowledge very well.

The early Muslims did not miss the central emphasis that the Quran had attached to knowledge. They launched an intellectual movement whose parallel is difficult to find in human history. First, they took care of and made arrangement for preserving the Holy Quran the way it was revealed to the Prophet. They also compiled the sayings of the Prophet and indeed developed the science of Hadith which is unique and found only in the Islamic civilization. They would clearly mention the names of persons from whom they received a saying attributed to the Prophet. They also studied the lives of the narrators of Hadith to ascertain if they were God-fearing and had a sound memory. They took all these trouble in order to be doubly sure that what they were handing down to posterity was indeed a saying of the Prophet.

After preserving the two, the Quran and the Hadith, the Muslims embarked upon acquiring the knowledge and wisdom of the world. They approached the people they had conquered and sought from them the knowledge they had. The Romans, subjugated in Syria, Egypt and Asia Minor, had people among them who knew the Greek language. The Muslims obtained from them the Greek books dealing with

geography, history, philosophy, medicine and natural sciences. They also acquired knowledge from the learned living in Iraq and Persia. Moreover, they obtained texts from India which mainly dealt with medicine and mathematics. They obtained the services of men who knew Arabic as well as Syria, Greek and Sanskrit to translate the obtained texts into Arabic which had become the international language of the time. By so doing the Muslims preserved the great scientific knowledge which was in danger of being extinct.

Some Western scholars have sought to belittle the Muslim contribution to human knowledge by saying that they preserved and transmitted the ancient Greek intellectual heritage and passed it on to the West. The fact, however, is that the Muslims were not merely preserver and transmitter of ancient Greek knowledge. Their contribution is much more.

The Muslims critically examined the received knowledge, the intellectual treasure of Greece and India by employing the method of verification and experimentation.

*Contd. on page-7*

### SUBSCRIPTION

Annual : Rs. 20/- \$ 5

Five Years: Rs. 75/- \$ 15