

GREAT SCHOLARS OF IX-XII CENTURIES INMOVAROUNNAHR AND KHORASAN

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Abstract: *Great Scholars of the 9th-12th Centuries in Greater Khorasan. The region of Greater Khorasan, which umfasst the modern-day countries of Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, was a major center of learning and scholarship during the 9th-12th centuries. This period saw the flourishing of many great scholars in a wide range of fields, including philosophy, science, mathematics, and medicine. The work of these great scholars helped to lay the foundation for the scientific and intellectual revolution that took place in Europe during the Renaissance and Enlightenment periods. Their work continues to be studied and admired today, and they remain an inspiration to scholars and students around the world.*

Keywords: Greater Khorasan, 9th-12th centuries, al-Khwarizmi, algebra, al-Farabi, philosopher, Avicenna, medicine, astronomy, History, Al-Biruni, mathematics, astronomy, Omar Khayyam, poetry, theology, geography

One of the most famous scholars of this period was al-Khwarizmi, who lived in the 9th century. Al-Khwarizmi was a mathematician and astronomer who wrote several important works on these subjects. His book on algebra, *The Compendious Book on Calculation by Completion and Balancing*, was translated into Latin in the 12th century and became a standard textbook on algebra in Europe for centuries. Another important scholar of this period was al-Farabi, who lived in the 10th century. Al-Farabi was a philosopher and scientist who wrote on a wide range of topics, including logic, metaphysics, ethics, and music. He was one of the first philosophers to develop a systematic account of Aristotelian philosophy, and his work had a major influence on later Islamic and Western philosophy.

Avicenna, who lived in the 11th century, was another major scholar of this period. Avicenna was a physician, philosopher, and scientist who wrote over 400 works on a wide range of subjects. His most famous work is *The Canon of Medicine*, which was a standard medical textbook in

Avicenna (980-1037), also known as Ibn Sina, was a Persian physician, philosopher, and scientist. He is considered one of the most important figures in the history of medicine, and his work has had a profound influence on Western medicine. Avicenna was born in Afshana, near Bukhara, in present-day Uzbekistan. He was a child prodigy, and he began studying medicine at the age of 10. By the age of 16, he had mastered all of the medical knowledge of his time. Avicenna went on to become a successful physician, and he served as the court physician to several rulers. He also wrote several important medical works, including the Canon of Medicine, which was a standard medical textbook in Europe for centuries. In addition to his work in medicine, Avicenna was also a philosopher and a scientist. He wrote on a wide range of topics, including logic, metaphysics, ethics, and physics. His work on philosophy and science was highly influential, and it helped to shape the development of Islamic and Western thought. Avicenna was a brilliant scholar and a prolific writer. He wrote over 400 works on a wide range of subjects. His work has had a profound influence on the development of medicine, philosophy, and science, and he is considered one of the greatest thinkers of all time.

Here are some additional facts about Avicenna:

- He was a polymath, and he made important contributions to a wide range of fields, including medicine, philosophy, science, and poetry.
- He was a prolific writer, and he wrote over 400 works on a wide range of subjects.
- His work has had a profound influence on the development of medicine, philosophy, and science in both the East and the West.
- He is considered one of the greatest thinkers of all time.

Avicenna was a brilliant scholar and a great mind. His work has had a lasting impact on the development of human thought, and he continues to inspire scholars and students around the world.

Ahmad Yassawi (1166-1242), also known as Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, was a Sufi mystic and poet who lived in the region of Turkestan (modern-day Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan). He is considered to be one of the most important figures in the history of Sufism, and his teachings have had a profound influence on the development of Islamic mysticism. Yassawi was born in the village of Yassey, near the city of Turkestan. He studied under the guidance of several Sufi masters, and he eventually became one of the most respected Sufi teachers in the region. Yassawi was a prolific writer, and he wrote over 100 poems and hymns. His poetry is known for its simple and direct style, and it is often with mystical and spiritual insights. Yassawi founded the Yasawi Order, a Sufi order that is still active today. The Yasawi Order is one of the most important Sufi orders in Central Asia, and it has played a major role in the spread of Sufism in

the region. Yassawi died in 1242, and he was buried in the city of Turkestan. His shrine is a popular pilgrimage site for Muslims from all over the world.

Here are some additional facts about Ahmad Yassawi:

* He was a contemporary of Rumi, another great Sufi mystic and poet.

* His teachings have had a profound influence on the development of Sufism in Central Asia.

* He is considered to be one of the most important figures in the history of Turkic literature.

* His shrine in Turkestan is a popular pilgrimage site for Muslims from all over the world.

Yassawi was a great Sufi mystic and poet, and his teachings continue to inspire Muslims around the world. He is a reminder that Sufism is a path of love, compassion, and wisdom.

Mirzo Ulugbek (1394-1449) was a Timurid prince, astronomer, and mathematician. He was the grandson of Timur (Tamerlane) and ruled the Timurid Empire from 1409 to 1449. Ulugbek was a passionate astronomer, and he founded the Ulugh Beg Observatory in Samarkand, which was one of the most important astronomical observatories in the world at the time. He also assembled a team of astronomers, including the Persian astronomer al-Kashi, and together they made important contributions to astronomy. Ulugbek's most famous work is the *Zij-i Sultani*, which is a star catalog that contains the positions of over 1000 stars. He also made important contributions to trigonometry, and he developed a new method for calculating the sine of an angle. In addition to his work in astronomy and mathematics, Ulugbek was also a patron of the arts and sciences. He founded a library in Samarkand that contained over 100,000 books, and he also commissioned the construction of several mosques and madrasas (Islamic schools). Ulugbek was assassinated in 1449 by his own son, Abd al-Latif. However, his legacy as a great astronomer and mathematician continues to this day. The Ulugh Beg Observatory is still in use today, and it is one of the most important historical observatories in the world.

Here are some additional facts about Mirzo Ulugbek:

- He was a direct descendant of Genghis Khan.
- He was a skilled mathematician and astronomer, and he made important contributions to both fields.
- He was a patron of the arts and sciences, and he founded a library and several mosques and madrasas.
- He was assassinated by his own son in 1449.
- The Ulugh Beg Observatory, which he founded, is still in use today.

Ulugbek was a brilliant scholar and a great patron of the arts and sciences. His work helped to advance the development of astronomy and mathematics, and his legacy continues to inspire scholars and students around the world.

Jalaluddin Rumi (1207-1273). Birth and Early Life: born in Balkh, Khorasan (present-day Afghanistan) in 1207. His father, Bahauddin Walad, was a renowned Islamic scholar and mystic. Rumi received a comprehensive education in Islamic law, theology, and literature.

Meeting Shams Tabrizi: In 1244, Rumi met the wandering Sufi mystic Shams Tabrizi. This encounter had a profound impact on Rumi, leading him to abandon his scholarly pursuits and embrace a path of spiritual devotion. Shams became Rumi's spiritual guide and mentor, inspiring him to write some of his most famous works.

Literary Works: Rumi is best known for his collection of poems, the Masnavi. It is a vast didactic poem that explores themes of love, spirituality, and the nature of existence. He also wrote the Diwan-i Shams-i Tabrizi, a collection of lyric poems dedicated to Shams. Rumi's works are characterized by their lyrical beauty, profound insights, and universal appeal.

Philosophy and Teachings: Rumi's teachings emphasize the importance of love, compassion, and unity. He believed that all beings are connected and that love is the force that binds the universe together. Rumi's message of love and tolerance has resonated with people from all walks of life and has made him one of the most beloved and influential poets in history.

Legacy: Rumi's works have been translated into numerous languages and continue to be widely read and studied today. He is considered one of the greatest Sufi poets and mystics. His teachings have inspired countless people around the world, promoting interfaith dialogue, peace, and understanding.

Famous Quotes:

- "What you seek is seeking you."
- "Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself."

- "The wound is the place where the Light enters you."
- "Dance, when you're broken open. Dance, if you've torn the bandage off. Dance in the middle of the fighting. Dance in your blood. Dance when you're perfectly free."

Al-Farabi (872-950). Birth and Early Life: Born in Wasij, near Bukhara, in present-day Uzbekistan. His full name was Abu Nasr Muhammad ibn Muhammad ibn Tarkhan al-Farabi. Received a comprehensive education in Islamic law, philosophy, and science.

Contributions to Philosophy: Known as the "Second Teacher" after Aristotle, Al-Farabi was one of the most influential Islamic philosophers. His works synthesized

Greek philosophy, particularly Aristotelianism, with Islamic theology and mysticism. He developed a comprehensive philosophical system that covered logic, metaphysics, ethics, and political philosophy.

Major Works: *Al-Madina al-Farabiyya* (The Virtuous City): A treatise on political philosophy that outlines the ideal society based on Plato's Republic and Aristotle's Politics. *Ihsa al-Ulum* (Enumeration of the Sciences): A groundbreaking work that classifies and organizes all branches of knowledge. *Kitab al-Musiqa al-Kabir* (The Great Book of Music): A treatise on music theory and its philosophical implications.

Philosophy and Teachings: Al-Farabi believed that philosophy was essential for understanding the world and achieving happiness. He argued that the ultimate goal of human existence is to know God and become united with the divine. His philosophy emphasized the importance of reason, logic, and contemplation.

Legacy: Al-Farabi's works had a profound influence on subsequent Islamic philosophy and science. He is considered one of the greatest thinkers of the Islamic Golden Age. His ideas were also influential in the development of Western philosophy, particularly through his influence on Thomas Aquinas.

Famous Quotes:

- "Philosophy is the science of sciences, and it is the most noble and excellent of all sciences."
- "The virtuous city is one in which all the citizens are friends and cooperate with each other for the common good."
- "Music is a mathematical science and a branch of philosophy."
- "The philosopher is the one who knows the truth of things and their causes."
- "The ultimate goal of human existence is to know God and become united with the divine."

In conclusion, the intellectual landscape of Movarounnahr and Khurasan during the 9th to 12th centuries was enriched by the brilliance of numerous great scholars whose contributions reverberate through time. From pioneering advances in mathematics, astronomy, and medicine to profound philosophical insights and literary masterpieces, these luminaries played a pivotal role in shaping the intellectual heritage of the region and beyond. Their enduring legacy continues to inspire and enlighten generations, underscoring the enduring importance of their scholarly endeavors in the annals of human history.

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