The role of muslim scholars in Medicine

JURNAL KEDOKTERAN YARSI 12 (1) : 001-009 (2004)

by

Jurnalis Uddin

Department of Anatomy, YARSI UNIVERSITY School of Medicine, Jakarta

ABSTRACT  In contrary to the Catholic Church where the faith was based on the famous 11 doctrines, Islam knows nothing on those creed. If in the Catholic Church, their adherents should submit their total life to the Hierarchy, in Islam any Muslim is free to take any step they think best to do. The mosque is only a place to observe their prayer, and on top of that the prayer could be done in any place as far as the place is clean. In Islam seeking knowledge is compulsory to any male and female adherents and they are encouraged to seek it to far away countries regardless of their race, ethnic and belive. It can be understood, that the tradition of scientific sphere was started since the inception of Islam itself in the beginning of the 7th century. It is true that during the life of the prophet Muhammad (PBUH), he focussed to inlay the foundation of Islam and bequeathed the priceless wealth to his adherents i.e. the Quran and the hadith. This step was continued by the Khalifat-ar-Rasyiddin and the Ummayad dynasty, however right after the emergence of the Abassid dynasty of Baghdad in the East and the Ummayad dynasty of Cordova in the West, from the 8th to 14th century, the advancement of science and technology becoming significantly flourished. By establishing the Bait al-Hikmat with their two step approaches: the translation followed by the elaboration policy, and supported by immense budget, the science and technology was becoming symbol and icon of those era. In medicine, the name of al Razi, Ibn Sina and al Zahrawi to say a few were becoming pillars of the advancement of medical science and technology. Their works exceed to hundred of books and manuscripts were used as compulsory reading up to the 18th century in famous European universities such as Oxford, Sorbonne, Montpellier, Salerno etc.