

FREDERICK WILLIAM DAME

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, TAQIYYA, AND KITMAN

Part One

Opening Statement

Taqiyya is an Arabic word that indicates a semantic dissimulation perfectly. For example, Islamic/Muslim legend reports that Mohammed's nephew, son-in-law and future Caliph, Ali, was sitting on a stool outside his dwelling when one of his allies ran red-faced and gasping into the village and hid in Ali's home. Perceiving that the man was being pursued, Ali promptly got up and sat on another nearby stool. A few minutes later, a group of angry pursuers ran into the encampment and asked Ali if he had seen the man they were pursuing. Ali responded with the statement, "As long as I have been sitting on his stool I have seen no one."¹

A better English term for *taqiyya* is *deception*. When used by Arabs, Islam, and any Muslim, *taqiyya* conveys with it the meaning that everything is allowed to further Islam. This means that a Muslim can lie, tell the truth, be good, be evil, be moral, be immoral, be ethical, be unethical, be a Christian, be an atheist, be a Hindu, be a Jew, as long as the Muslim remains a Muslim and the cause of Islam is furthered. There are no barriers in Muslim behavior for the furtherance of Islam. Even killing fellow human beings is allowed. The Muslim does not have to worry about committing a sin because Allah is all-knowing and forgiving.

In the O-So-Holy Koran we find the following concerning *taqiyya*.²

Koran (16:106) - Establishes that there are circumstances that can "compel" a Muslim to tell a lie.

Koran (3:28) - This verse tells Muslims not to take those outside the faith as friends, unless it is to "guard themselves."

Koran (9:3) - "...Allah and His Messenger are free from liability to the idolaters..." This refers to the dissolution of oaths with the pagans who remained at Mecca following its capture. They did nothing wrong, but were evicted anyway.

¹ <http://www.islam-watch.org/Warner/Taqiyya-Islamic-Principle-Lying-for-Allah.htm>, accessed 23.09.12.

² <http://www.thereligionofpeace.com/Quran/011-taqiyya.htm>, accessed 23.09.12.

Koran (40:28) - A man is introduced as a believer, but one who must *"hide his faith"* among those who are not believers.

Koran (2:225) - *"Allah will not call you to account for thoughtlessness in your oaths, but for the intention in your hearts"*. The context of this remark is marriage, which explains why Sharia allows spouses to lie to each other for the greater good. However the use applies to other situations, also.

Koran (66:2) – *"Allah has already ordained for you, (O men), the dissolution of your oaths"*.

Koran (3:54) - *"And they (the disbelievers) schemed, and Allah schemed (against them): and Allah is the best of schemers."* The Arabic word used here for scheme (or plot) is *makara*, which literally means *deceit*. If Allah is deceitful toward unbelievers, then there is little basis for denying that Muslims are allowed to do the same. (See also Koran 8:30 and Koran 10:21)

Islamic scholars take these instances as a collective with the meaning being it is permissible to deceive others, particularly non-believers, for the cause of Islam.

In the Hadiths³ we find the following references to *taqiyya*.⁴

Bukhari (52:269) - *"The Prophet said, 'War is deceit.'"* The context of this is thought to be the murder of Usayr ibn Zarim and his thirty unarmed men by Muhammad's men after he "guaranteed" them safe passage.

Bukhari (49:857) - *"He who makes peace between the people by inventing good information or saying good things, is not a liar."* Lying is permitted when the end justifies the means.

Bukhari (84:64-65) - Speaking from a position of power at the time, Ali confirms that lying is permissible in order to deceive an "enemy."

Muslim (32:6303) - *"...he did not hear that exemption was granted in anything what the people speak as lie but in three cases: in battle, for bringing reconciliation amongst persons, and the narration of the words of the husband to his wife, and the narration of the words of a wife to her husband (in a twisted form in order to bring reconciliation between them)."*

³ Reports about Mohammed's experiences and life were orally reported in the late 7th century or early 8th century. Mohammed died in 632 AD.

⁴ <http://www.thereligionofpeace.com/Quran/011-taqiyya.htm>, accessed 23.09.12

Bukhari (50:369) - Recounts the murder of a poet, Ka'b bin al-Ashraf, at Muhammad's insistence. The men who volunteered for the assassination used dishonesty to gain Ka'b's trust, pretending that they had turned against Muhammad. This drew the victim out of his fortress, whereupon he was brutally slaughtered despite putting up a ferocious struggle for his life.

Islamic Law from *Reliance of the Traveler* (p. 746 - 8.2) - "Speaking is a means to achieve objectives. If a praiseworthy aim is attainable through both telling the truth and lying, it is unlawful to accomplish through lying because there is no need for it. When it is possible to achieve such an aim by lying but not by telling the truth, it is permissible to lie if attaining the goal is permissible (when the purpose of lying is to circumvent someone who is preventing one from doing something permissible), and obligatory to lie if the goal is obligatory... it is religiously precautionary in all cases to employ words that give a misleading impression."

Islamic scholars and jurists argue that a Muslim can weigh the consequences of telling a lie against telling the truth, and vice-versa. If there are more positive outcomes in lying, then lie!

The Problem

Beginning in 2006 the Foundation for Science, Technology, and Civilization, Manchester, United Kingdom began the exhibition of the *1001 Inventions* of the Muslims and it attracted attention at the website www.MuslimHeritage.com. The exhibition expanded world-wide in 2010. It started at the Science Museum in London. It then went to Istanbul, Turkey, was at Abu Dhabi, and began an exhibition tour of North America: Hall of Science, New York, City; California Science Center, Los Angeles, California; and The National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. We read the following from The National Geographic Society website:⁵

National Geographic [Exhibits](#)

1001 Inventions: Discover the Golden Age of Muslim Civilization

- Date August 3, 2012 – February 3, 2013
- Time 10 am - 6 pm daily
- Location [Washington, D.C.](#)
- Price Exhibition included in Museum Admission; Adults - \$8; Members/Military/Seniors (over 62)/Students/Groups (25+) - \$6;

⁵ <http://events.nationalgeographic.com/events/exhibits/2012/08/03/1001-inventions/>, accessed 23.09.12.

Children (ages 5-12) - \$4; School & Youth Groups (18 and under) - Free

From the 7th to 17th centuries, Muslim Civilization stretched from southern Spain to China. Scholars of many faiths built on the ancient knowledge of the Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Persians, and others, making breakthroughs that paved the way for the Renaissance.

Named “Best Touring Exhibition of the Year” at the Museums and Heritage Excellence Awards, “1001 Inventions: Discover the Golden Age of Muslim Civilization” uncovers a thousand years of advances in science and technology that have had a huge but hidden impact on the modern world.

Through interactive displays, explore basic science principles in such fields as optics, time-keeping, hydraulics, navigation, architecture, and math.

For more information about the global education initiative of 1001 Inventions and the exhibition, [visit the official website.](#)

For Educators

- Free Admission for School and Youth Groups
- Free Teacher Workshop Series: [The Indian Ocean and Muslim Civilization](#)

Presented in conjunction with the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center.

To register email natgeomuseum@ngs.org. Space is limited.

- Download Educator Guides

[Elementary School](#) [Middle School](#)

Call +1 202 857 7281 or email GroupSales[@]ngs.org to [book a field trip.](#)

Family Workshop

Join us for free family workshops exploring the fascinating engineering, mathematical, scientific, and technological innovations advances featured in the exhibition. Create an astrolabe, investigate the principles of lift, construct a ten-foot-tall spire, and much more. Click [here](#) for additional information.

Saturdays October 27, November 24, December 22, January 19

Supported by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art

.....

[HTTP://WWW.1001INVENTIONS.COM/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC](http://www.1001inventions.com/national_geographic) tells us this:

National Geographic Releases New 1001 Inventions Book

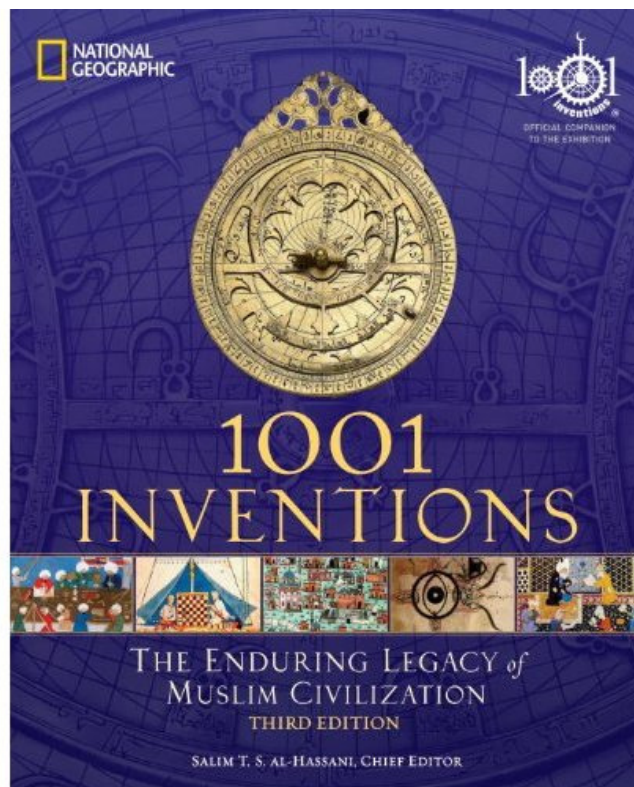
Published Date: 26/01/2012

Uncovering The Enduring Legacy of Muslim Civilization

25th January 2012, Washington, DC – The latest edition of the best-selling 1001 Inventions book has been published by National Geographic, and will introduce the enduring legacy of Muslim civilization to new audiences in North America and the rest of the world. The previous two editions of the flagship 1001 Inventions publication sold more than 150,000 copies, with [Turkish](#) and [Arabic](#) versions also proving very popular.

ISBN No: 978-1-4262-0947-5

Modern society owes a tremendous amount to the Muslim world for the many groundbreaking scientific and technological advances that were pioneered during the Golden Age of Muslim civilization between the 7th and 17th centuries. Every time you drink coffee, eat a three-course meal, get a whiff of your favorite perfume, take shelter in an earthquake-resistant structure, get a broken bone set or solve an algebra problem, it is in part due to the discoveries of Muslim civilization.



The society's often overlooked achievements are shared in **1001 Inventions: The Enduring Legacy of Muslim Civilization**, official companion to the blockbuster *1001 Inventions* exhibition, which is currently amazing audiences at the California Science Center ([CSC](#)) in Los Angeles. The exhibition is due to open at the National Geographic Museum in Washington, DC, at the start of August 2012.

1001 Inventions highlights how many of the most important scientific and technological discoveries and building blocks of modern civilization came out of Muslim society during the centuries after the fall of ancient Rome — a period known as the Dark Ages in European civilization. However, while the Western World was in the doldrums, a renaissance was occurring in the Muslim world. The book highlights these outstanding achievements and the people behind them. For example:

- **The House of Wisdom** (8th-14th century), an immense scientific academy in Baghdad where an impressive collection of worldly knowledge was accumulated and developed, was an unrivaled center for the study of humanities and science.
- **Jabir ibn Hayyan** (722-815), known as the father of chemistry, worked in Iraq devising and perfecting the processes of sublimation, distillation, crystallization, purification, oxidation, evaporation filtration and others. He discovered processes for the preparation of hair dyes, leather and illuminating manuscript ink.
- **Al-Zahrawi** (936-1013), a physician and surgeon from Muslim Spain, wrote a 30-volume medical encyclopedia, giving detailed accounts of dental, pharmaceutical and surgical practices. He designed more than 200 surgical instruments such as syringes, droppers, scalpels and forceps. His book also described dyes that turned blond hair black, lotions for straightening curls and suntan lotion.
- **Al-Jazari** (12th century) was a highly skilled engineer from southern Turkey whose connecting rod system revolutionized the concept of automatic machines, including the Elephant Clock — a symbol of status that incorporated robotics with moving, time-telling figures.
- **Ibn Nafis** (1210-1288), a famous philosopher and physician who was born in Syria and lived in Egypt, was the first to describe pulmonary circulation of venous blood passing into the heart and lungs via the ventricles. He was finally credited with this discovery in the early 20th century when his manuscript was discovered in Berlin.
- **Sinan** (1489-1588) was the master architect for the Ottoman Empire. He designed and built 477 buildings during his long career in the service of three sultans in Turkey. His work includes the Selimiye

Mosque in Edirne, which has the highest, most earthquake-defying minarets in all of Turkey. His designs revolutionized the dome, allowing for greater height and size.

The book's seven chapters are richly illustrated and provide insight into the everyday life of early Muslim civilization and the related and subsequent growth and progress of Western civilization. There is also an extensive reference section, a glossary of subjects and people, charts, timelines and maps illustrating the inventions and contributions, remarkable photographs, artifacts, historic documents and drawings. Copies can be pre-ordered now from all major retailers, including Amazon, and the book is due to hit the shelves on the 28th February 2012.

The book releases in conjunction with the globally renowned [1001 Inventions exhibition](#), which will be on display at National Geographic headquarters from August 2012 through February 2013. The exhibition completed its record-breaking residency at [London's Science Museum](#) in the first half of 2010, followed by blockbuster residencies at the historic [Sultan Ahmed Square in Istanbul](#), the [New York Hall of Science](#) and [Abu Dhabi](#). The exhibition is now at the [California Science Center in Los Angeles](#), where, due to its popularity, it has been extended 10 weeks to March 11, 2012.

For the latest news and updates about 1001 Inventions, please click the image below:



Related Links

- ▶ [Best Touring Exhibition](#)
- ▶ [Abu Dhabi Exhibition](#)
- ▶ [California Exhibition](#)
- ▶ [Arabick Roots Exhibition](#)
- ▶ [New York Exhibition](#)
- ▶ [Istanbul Exhibition](#)
- ▶ [London Exhibition](#)
- ▶ [Online Shop](#)

More Websites

- ▶ [FSTC](#)
- ▶ [MUSLIM HERITAGE](#)
- ▶ [CE4CE](#)
- ▶ [ARABIC](#)
- ▶ [TURKISH](#)
- ▶ [YOUTUBE](#)
- ▶ [TWITTER](#)
- ▶ [FACEBOOK](#)

This is the end of the announcement and advertising. The present author emphasizes that in no way does he accept what The National Geographic Society says concerning the exhibition **1001 Inventions: Discover the Golden Age of Muslim Civilization**. On the contrary he emphatically takes issue with a number of salient points:

➤ Salient Point 1. **1001 Inventions: Discover the Golden Age of Muslim Civilization**

COMMENT: I place Muslim and Islam in the same context. Islam means Muslim(s) and Muslim(s) means Islam. Therefore, I state that there never was a golden age of Muslim civilization. Indeed, Islam caused the downfall of classical civilization. The occupation of Spain between 711 and 1492 is referred to as the Golden Age of Islam. Yet, there was nothing golden about their occupation.⁶ Indeed, during that occupation at least 7,000,000 inhabitants were slaughtered by the Saracens, (read Muslims).⁷ It was not a peaceful occupation. As for it being golden, the renowned historian John O'Neill states, "the Muslim conquest of Spain produced, instead of a Golden Age of science and learning, a bloodbath and an interminable war of attrition."⁸ Further, "it was in Spain that the first *crusades* began. Indeed it was from their Muslim foes that the Christians learned the very ideas of *Holy War*."⁹

➤ Salient Point 2. "Modern society owes a tremendous amount to the Muslim world for the many groundbreaking scientific and technological advances that were pioneered during the Golden Age of Muslim civilization between the 7th and 17th centuries. Every time you drink coffee, eat a three-course meal, get a whiff of your favorite perfume, take shelter in an earthquake-resistant structure, get a broken bone set or solve an algebra problem, it is in part due to the discoveries of Muslim civilization."

COMMENT: I do not agree with the statement that "Modern society owes a tremendous amount to the Muslim world for the many groundbreaking scientific and technological advances that were pioneered during the Golden Age of Muslim civilization between the 7th and 17th centuries. Every time you drink coffee, eat a three-course meal, get a whiff of your favorite perfume, take shelter in an earthquake-resistant structure, get a broken bone set or solve an algebra problem, it is in part due to the discoveries of Muslim civilization." Furthermore, is a discovery an invention? Discovery is the process of locating something that is really already present, but not necessarily known. Benjamin Franklin discovered

⁶ Henri Pirenne, *Mohammed and Charlemagne*, London: 1939, passim.

⁷ <http://necrometrics.com/pre1700a.htm>, accessed 23.09.12.

⁸ John O'Neil, *Holy Warriors Islam and the Demise of Western Civilization*, Felibri Publications, Ingram Book Group, 2009, 2010, p. 116. ISBN 13: 9780980994849 and ISBN 10: 0980994896.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 117.

electricity. Invention utilizes a discovery to make something new. Thomas Alva Edison invented the light bulb.

Indeed, "Modern society" does not "owe a tremendous amount to the Muslim world." It is not the Muslim world. It never was! It is the Muslim dogma. Even with my advanced research capabilities I cannot find any of the "many groundbreaking scientific and technological advances that were pioneered during the Golden Age of Muslim civilization between the 7th and 17th centuries" as stated in the above quotation. The reason is that there never was a Golden Age of Muslim civilization. Not in Spain. Not anywhere.

- Salient Point 3. "Every time you drink coffee, eat a three-course meal, get a whiff of your favorite perfume, take shelter in an earthquake-resistant structure, get a broken bone set or solve an algebra problem, it is in part due to the discoveries of Muslim civilization."

COMMENT: When we examine sources behind the assertion, a different picture emerges.

Coffee: The coffee plant originated in the Kingdom of Kaffa, Ethiopia (1390-1897). The religion was Christian. Therefore, the kingdom was also Christian. Muslim traders lived in the kingdom and it is probably this connection that gave rise to the untruthful fact that Muslims invented coffee.¹⁰ Muslims claim that a shepherd named "Kaldi, noticing that when his flock nibbled on the bright red berries of a certain bush they became more energetic (jumping goats), chewed on the fruit himself. His exhilaration prompted him to bring the berries to an Islamic holy man in a nearby monastery. But the holy man disapproved of their use and threw them into a fire, from which an enticing aroma billowed. The roasted beans were quickly raked from the embers, ground up, and dissolved in hot water, yielding the world's first cup of coffee.

Analysis

The story is probably apocryphal, as it was first related by Antoine Faustus Nairon, a Maronite who became a Roman professor of Oriental languages and author of one of the first printed treatises devoted to coffee, *De Saluberrima potione Cahue seu Cafe nuncupata Discursus* (Rome, 1671).

The myth of Kaldi the Ethiopian goatherd and his dancing goats, the coffee origin story most frequently encountered in Western literature, embellishes the credible tradition that the ... encounter with coffee occurred in Ethiopia, which lies just across the narrow passage of the Red Sea from Arabia's western coast."¹¹

¹⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Kaffa, accessed 23.09.12.

¹¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaldj>, accessed 23.09.12.

As with many so-called truths emanating from Islam, the claim that Muslim civilization invented coffee is just a story.

Three-course meals: These meals likely come from the Romans. They introduced three-course meals into their European territories, particularly Britannia. "Celtic cooking had probably been a one-pot affair, such as a mess of potage to be shared by the household, but the Romans introduced the three-course meal."¹² The Romans were in Britannia beginning in 43 AD. Therefore, they had known of three-course meals previously. Throughout their history the Romans knew of three-course meals. Indeed, they probably acquired the dining behavior from the Greeks who acquired it from the Egyptians. Islam, and therefore Muslims, started documentarily breathing sometime between 628 and 632 AD,¹³ ... or even later.

Perfumes: Perfumes were widely used and spread all over the Egyptian Empire, at least 1,500 years before Muslims knew anything about being Muslims. The synopsis of the history of perfumes is this:

"Perfume was first used by the Egyptians as part of their religious rituals. The two principal methods of use at this time was the burning of incense and the application of balms and ointments. Perfumed oils were applied to the skin for either cosmetic or medicinal purposes. During the Old and Middle Kingdoms, (ca. 2700-ca. 2055 BC and ca.2055-ca1600 BC)perfumes were reserved exclusively for religious rituals such as cleansing ceremonies. Then during the New Kingdom (ca. 1580 BC-ca. 1085 BC) they were used during festivals and Egyptian women also used perfumed creams and oils as toiletries and cosmetics and as preludes to love-making. The use of perfumes then spread to Greece, Rome, and (only then to) the Islamic world."¹⁴

Perfumes spread to the Islamic countries, but it is an emphatic lie to contend that Muslims invented perfumes!

Earth-quake resistant structures: Some of the earliest earthquake resistant buildings were in Uttarakhand, Himalaya Region, India. The Muslims never occupied the territory. Around 1,500 years ago, the Chinese started adding sticky rice soup to their traditional lime mortar mixture, which dramatically increased the strength of the mortar.¹⁵ Therefore, the contention that Muslims invented earthquake resistant buildings is an untruth. It does not even border on the truth!

¹² http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/tech_01.shtml, accessed 23.09.12.

¹³ <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam>, accessed 23.09.12.

¹⁴ <http://www.parfumsraffy.com/history.html>, accessed 23.09.12.

¹⁵ [Key Ingredient to Super Strong Mortar Found in Sticky Rice | Inhabitat - Sustainable Design Innovation, Eco Architecture, Green Building http://inhabitat.com/sticky-rice-is-1500-year-old-secret-to-super-strong-chinese-buildings/#ixzz26RqJIM5L.](http://inhabitat.com/sticky-rice-is-1500-year-old-secret-to-super-strong-chinese-buildings/#ixzz26RqJIM5L)

Set broken bones: The Egyptians knew how to set them; the Greeks and the Romans, as well. Even the caveman civilizations knew about this. There is some evidence that even prehistoric people set broken or fractured bones by covering the broken area with clay where this was available. The clay would then set hard so that the bone could heal properly without interference.¹⁶ What is fact is that Muslims did not invent the medicinal treatment. Muslims knew and still know how to break bones!

Solving an algebra problem: The origins of algebra can be traced to the ancient Babylonians. Although Muhammad ibn Mūsā al-Khwārizmī (c. 780–850) wrote *The Compendious Book on Calculation by Completion and Balancing*, he took his information and ideas from those mathematicians who lived before him. From Wikipedia: "The Greek mathematician Diophantus has traditionally been known as the "father of algebra" but in more recent times there is much debate over whether al-Khwarizmi, who founded the discipline of *al-jabr*, deserves that title instead. Those who support Diophantus point to the fact that the algebra found in *Al-Jabr* is slightly more elementary than the algebra found in *Arithmetica* and that *Arithmetica* is syncopated while *Al-Jabr* is fully rhetorical."¹⁷ The conclusion is that there is no philosophical, historical, or mathematical basis to claim that Muslim civilization invented the solving of algebra problems.

➤ Salient Point 4. The respective section above is repeated in italics for purposes of immediate recall. This author's comments follow the respective point.

- ***The House of Wisdom*** (8th-14th century), an immense scientific academy in Baghdad where an impressive collection of worldly knowledge was accumulated and developed, was an unrivaled center for the study of humanities and science.

COMMENT: This is a fact. However, the strong implication is that there were never great places of learning before the House of Wisdom; it was an Islamic invention. Among the recognized centers of learning in the Ancient World was Alexandria, Egypt (the Museion, late 3rd century BC); in Ancient Greece it was Athens (the Platonic Academy, 387 BC, the Peripatetic School of Aristotle, c. 335 BC), and in the Roman Empire it was Rome (2nd century AD). In Constantinople it was the Pandidakterion (425 AD). In the First Bulgarian Empire, established in 681 AD, we find the following centers of learning: the Preslav Literary School, 885-886 AD, and the Ohrid Literary School, 886 AD. In South Asia there was Taxila or Takshashila, that dated back to at least the 5th century BC. In India there was the learning center of Nalanda, 5th century

¹⁶ <http://cookit.e2bn.org/historycookbook/29-330-prehistoric-Health-facts.html>.

¹⁷ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algebra>, accessed 23.09.12.

AD, with "eight separate compounds, 10 temples, meditation halls, classrooms, lakes and parks. It had a nine-story library where monks meticulously copied books and documents so that individual scholars could have their own collections. It had dormitories for students, perhaps a first for an educational institution, housing 10,000 students in the university's heyday and providing accommodation for 2,000 professors. Nalanda University attracted pupils and scholars from Korea, Japan, China, Tibet, Indonesia, Persia and Turkey."¹⁸ There was also Bihar, founded in 427 in northeastern India that survived until 1197. The curriculum was astronomy, Buddhist studies, fine arts, medicine, mathematics, politics, and the art of war. "Further centers include Odantapuri, in Bihar (circa 550 - 1040); Somapura, in Bangladesh [from the Gupta period to the Muslim conquest (destroyed)]; Sharada Peeth, Pakistan; Jagaddala, in Bengal [from the Pala period to the Muslim conquest (destroyed)]; Nagarjunakonda, in Andhra Pradesh; Vikramaśīla in Bihar (circa 800-1040); Valabhi, in Gujarat [from the Maitrak period to the Arab raids]; Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh (8th century to modern times); Kanchipuram, in Tamil Nadu; Manyakheta, in Karnataka; Puspagiri, in Orissa; and Ratnagiri, in Orissa."¹⁹

In China we find Taixue, the ancient imperial academy established by the Han Dynasty in 3 AD. Peking University (1898) is considered the successor. In Korea, Taehak in 372 and Gukhak in 682. In Japan, Daigakuryo in 671 and Ashikaga Gakko, 9th century, restored in 1432.

In Ancient Persia the Academy of Gundishapur, 3rd century AD. In the 6th and 7th centuries it was a prominent medical centre.

To claim that "The House of Wisdom (8th-14th century), "was an unrivaled center for the study of humanities and science" is exceedingly quite far from the truth. Indeed, it is light years away from the truth!

It is interesting that it did not take long for the learning center of Alexandria, Egypt, particularly the Alexandria library to be destroyed by Muslims. The Prophet Muhammad's companion, Amr bin al-As and his Arabian tribesmen, invaded and conquered Egypt circa 641. Under al-As and subsequent Muslim rule, many Egyptian antiquities were destroyed as relics of infidelity. While most Western academics argue otherwise, according to early Muslim writers, the great Library of Alexandria itself—deemed a repository of pagan knowledge contradicting the Koran—was destroyed under bin al-As's reign and in compliance with Caliph Omar's command. "Abd-Al-Latif of Baghdad visited Egypt in the latter part of the sixth century AH (Islamic Calendar). He mentions that a library, which was in Alexandria, was burned by Umru ibn al-

¹⁸ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_higher-learning_institutions, accessed 24.09.12.

¹⁹ Ibid.

As in compliance to Omar's orders. Jamal Ad-din Al-Kufti, who was born in Kufft in Upper Egypt in 565 AH, and died in 646, informs us that the library was burned by Umru Ibn Al-As.²⁰

"It seems more likely than not that, in fact Omar – the second Khalif of Islam – bears the final responsibility for the destruction of Alexandria library, when Muslims invaded and took over Egypt."²¹

- **Jabir ibn Hayyan** (722-815), known as the father of chemistry, worked in Iraq devising and perfecting the processes of sublimation, distillation, crystallization, purification, oxidation, evaporation filtration and others. He discovered processes for the preparation of hair dyes, leather and illuminating manuscript ink.

COMMENT: Let us examine each of the listed inventions, which are not, as the text states, discoveries.

processes of sublimation The claim is too scanty to know what Jabir ibn Hayyan sublimated.

distillation The first known chemist was Tapputi, a woman from Mesopotamia who lived in the second millennium BC. She described how as a palace overseer she distilled the "essences of flowers and other aromatic materials, filtered them, added water and returned them to the still several times until she got just what she wanted. This is also the first known reference to the process of distillation and the first recorded use of a still.²² Jabir ibn Hayyan may have improved on the process of distillation. Yet, let us give credit where credit is due: Tapputi was the mother of chemistry, almost three thousand years before a Muslim thought about distillation.

Crystallization The claim is too scanty to realize what Jabir ibn Hayyan crystallized.

purification The Egyptians and the Romans devised the process of purification, at least with regards to water. What Jabir Ibn Hayyan purified is not stated.

²⁰ *The American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures*, Volume 27, October 1911, p. 335.

²¹ http://www.islam-watch.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=370:did-caliph-omar-order-burning-of-alexandria-library&catid=59:kammuna&Itemid=58, accessed 24.09.12.

²² <http://chemistry.about.com/od/historyofchemistry/f/first-chemist.htm> and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tapputi>, accessed 23.09.12.

oxidation The process of oxidation (electrons are lost) and reduction (electrons are gained) were used 7,500 to 4,500 years ago in the Copper/Bronze Age. Although not chemically understood, the craftsmen at that time "heated copper ores in the presence of carbon to produce copper metal. In this process, the copper in the ore was reduced to copper metal and the carbon was oxidized to carbon dioxide. This same process was applied to iron ores during the Iron Age, which occurred 4500-3500 years ago."²³ The process was known and used long before Jabir ibn Hayyan lived.

evaporation filtration The contention is too scanty without knowing what Jabir ibn Hayyan evaporated and filtrated. Thus, it is difficult to know the real story behind the process.

processes for the preparation of hair dyes The Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans knew of processes for the preparation of hair dyes. They may not have been the same as the processes of Jabir ibn Hayyan. Nevertheless, he was not the first to invent a process. "The dying of hair is an ancient art. In ancient times, the dyes were obtained from plants. Some of the most well known are henna (*Lawsonia inermis*), indigo, *Cassia obovata*, senna, turmeric, and amla. Others include katam, black walnut hulls, red ochre and leeks"²⁴ "Women have been dyeing their hair for over four thousand years. Assyrian herbals dating back to 2177 BC contain some of the oldest recipes for cosmetic preparations known. One particular recipe for a hair dye uses cassia and leeks."²⁵

processes for the preparation of leather dyes The contention is too scanty to know what is really meant by processes. "Tanning was being carried out by the South Asian inhabitants of Mehrgarh between 7000–3300 BC. Around 2500 BC, the Sumerians began using leather, affixed by copper studs, on chariot wheels." The Egyptians and the Romans knew of process for dying leather, i.e., tanning.²⁶

illuminating manuscript ink The Egyptians had previous knowledge of this kind of manuscript painting.²⁷

²³ <http://science.jrank.org/pages/4959/Oxidation-Reduction-Reaction-History.html>, accessed 26.09.12.

²⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hair_coloring , accessed 24.09.12.

²⁵ http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/womanshour/04/2007_08_fri.shtml, accessed 24.09.12.

²⁶ <http://www.leatherresource.com/history.html>, accessed 24.09.12.

²⁷ <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09620a.htm>, accessed 24.09.12.

- **Al-Zahrawi** (936-1013), a physician and surgeon from Muslim Spain, wrote a 30-volume medical encyclopedia, giving detailed accounts of dental, pharmaceutical and surgical practices. He designed more than 200 surgical instruments such as syringes, droppers, scalpels and forceps. His book also described dyes that turned blond hair black, lotions for straightening curls and suntan lotion.

COMMENT: Granted, Al-Zahrawi is the author of a 30-volume medical encyclopedia. However, dentistry and dental surgery was practiced in the Indus Valley already in 7000 BC. "This earliest form of dentistry involved curing tooth related disorders with bow drills operated, perhaps, by skilled bead craftsmen. The reconstruction of this ancient form of dentistry showed that the methods used were reliable and effective.

A Sumerian text from 5000 BC describes a 'tooth worm' as the cause of dental caries. Evidence of this belief has also been found in ancient India, Egypt, Japan, and China. The legend of the worm is also found in the writings of Homer, and as late as the 14th century AD the surgeon Guy de Chauliac still promoted the belief that worms cause tooth decay."²⁸

"The Edwin Smith Papyrus, written in the 17th century BC but which may reflect previous manuscripts from as early as 3000 BC, includes the treatment of several dental ailments. In the 18th century BC, the Code of Hammurabi referenced dental extraction twice as it related to punishment. Examination of the remains of some ancient Egyptians and Greco-Romans reveals early attempts at dental prosthetics and surgery.

Ancient Greek scholars Hippocrates and Aristotle wrote about dentistry, including the eruption pattern of teeth, treating decayed teeth and gum disease, extracting teeth with forceps, and using wires to stabilize loose teeth and fractured jaws. Some say the first use of dental appliances or bridges comes from the Etruscans from as early as 700 BC. Further research suggested 3000 B.C. In ancient Egypt, Hesi-Re is the first named "dentist" (greatest of the teeth). The Egyptians bound replacement teeth together with gold wire. Roman medical writer Cornelius Celsus wrote extensively of oral diseases as well as dental treatments such as narcotic-containing emollients and astringents."²⁹

Although Al-Zahrawi allegedly "designed more than 200 surgical instruments such as syringes, droppers, scalpels and forceps", he could not have done this without building on the shoulders of giants in the field who had come before

²⁸ http://www.belekdentalcare.com/files/history_of_dentistry.pdf, and <http://www.thehistoryof.net/the-history-of-dentistry.html>, accessed 24.09.12.

²⁹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dentistry>; <http://www.answers.com/topic/dentistry>, accessed 24.09.12.

him. Furthermore, describing "dyes that turned blond hair black, lotions for straightening curls and suntan lotion", does not mean that he invented them, which the passage slyly implies.

***Al-Jazari** (12th century) was a highly skilled engineer from southern Turkey whose connecting rod system revolutionized the concept of automatic machines, including the Elephant Clock — a symbol of status that incorporated robotics with moving, time-telling figures.*

COMMENT: "The earliest evidence for a connecting rod appears in the late 3rd century AD Roman Hierapolis sawmill. It also appears in two 6th century Eastern Roman saw mills excavated at Ephesus, respectively Gerasa in Roman Syria. The crank and connecting rod mechanism of these Roman watermills converted the rotary motion of the waterwheel into the linear movement of the saw blades."³⁰

Sometime between 1174 and 1206, the ... Arab engineer Al-Jazari described a machine which incorporated the connecting rod with a crankshaft to pump water as part of a water-raising machine, but the device was unnecessarily complex indicating that he still did not fully understand the concept of power conversion."³¹

The description of such a connecting rod construction does not mean that Al-Jazari invented it, as the statement implies.

- ***Ibn Nafis** (1210-1288), a famous philosopher and physician who was born in Syria and lived in Egypt, was the first to describe pulmonary circulation of venous blood passing into the heart and lungs via the ventricles. He was finally credited with this discovery in the early 20th century when his manuscript was discovered in Berlin.*

COMMENT: This is only part of the story. According to R.A. Young, "Wiberg suggests that the early Greeks knew of the circulation, and quotes a passage from one of the Hippocratic writings which would bear that interpretation."³² This statement is just as credible as that which said about Ibn Nafis. Perhaps Ibn Nafis stood on the shoulders of giants before him. Ibin Nafis himself said that he was indebted to those who came before him, particularly Galen (129? 131? -199?, 201?, 216?)³³ "In 2nd

³⁰ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crankshaft>, accessed 26.09.12.

³¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Connecting_rod, accessed 23.09.12.

³² Young, R. A. *The Pulmonary Circulation--Before and After Harvey: Part I*, (1940), at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2176288/?tool=pmcentrez>, accessed 23.09.12.

³³ Ibid.

century AD in Rome, the Greek physician Galen knew that blood vessels carried blood and identified venous (dark red) and arterial (brighter and thinner) blood, each with distinct and separate functions. ... Galen believed that the arterial blood was created by venous blood passing from the left ventricle to the right by passing through 'pores' in the interventricular septum."³⁴

Although he did not completely understand the functioning, Galen did theorize that the heart was instrumental in the circulatory system.

- **Sinan** (1489-1588) was the master architect for the Ottoman Empire. He designed and built 477 buildings during his long career in the service of three sultans in Turkey. His work includes the Selimiye Mosque in Edirne, which has the highest, most earthquake-defying minarets in all of Turkey. His designs revolutionized the dome, allowing for greater height and size.

COMMENT: The statement is true, but it leads the reader to the conclusion that Sinan alone is responsible for the revolution in dome design, which really started when Filippo Brunelleschi built the dome of the Santa Maria del Fiore between 1446-1461. It is accepted fact that Sinan was familiar with Renaissance dome-building practice. Many of his structures and domes resemble the work of Brunelleschi. Yet, let us accept the plethora of his architectural work on the one hand, and on the other hand and at the same time conjecture that the architectural principles of dome construction came to him from other sources as well, particularly Brunelleschi, upon whom he developed.³⁵ The structures were not all his own, isolated inventions.

Closing Statement

The statement at the beginning of the announcement for *1001 Inventions* that "Scholars of many faiths built on the ancient knowledge of the Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Persians, and others, making breakthroughs that paved the way for the Renaissance" is a valid statement. At the same time, however, it must be emphasized that no single country or culture was more important in its contribution to the Renaissance than another country or culture, although a very slyly communicated insinuation of the exhibition of *1001 Inventions* implies that Muslims played a major role.

This author distances himself from accusations that the intent of this exposé is a crusade against Islam. Rather than that it is a crusade for the complete truth.

The simple research above, which indeed anyone with a questionable mind and desire to know the truth could have undertaken, has proven that the complete

³⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circulatory_system, accessed 26.09.12.

³⁵ Kostoff, Spiro. *A History of Architecture Settings and Rituals*, Oxford University press: New York: 1985, pp. 457-466.

truth of the assertions and claims of this exhibition has not been told to the public. Indeed, there is a concept in Islam that emphatically states that it is permissible to state only parts of the truth if the outcome is to advance Islam. That process of presentation is called *kitman*, which in its essence is *lying by omission*. *Taqiyya* and *kitman* go hand-in-hand.

It is important to answer the questions

Are *taqiyya* and *kitman* taking place at the National Geographic Society's exhibition of *1001 Inventions*?

Was *taqiyya* and *kitman* happening at all of the other places where the exhibition *1001 Inventions* has traveled?

Under the title of this essay is the division nomenclature Part One. After the author had read The National Geographic Society advertisement for the *1001 Inventions* exhibition, he thought that it would be a good idea to purchase *1001 Inventions the Enduring Legacy of Muslim Civilization*, third edition. The purchase of the book is underway and the author will scrutinize the claims contained therein and publish the results in successive parts under the title of this essay.

Let us look forward to the results, keeping in mind that Muslim presentation of so-called facts, often with *taqiyya* and *kitman*, is always intent on furthering the greater cause of Islam. As such, it is a form of creeping Islamization of science.

Frederick William Dame
Patriotic, Steadfast, and True
September 27, 2012.