

The Father Of Islamic Medicine An International Questionnaire

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Summary

In this article, the father of Islamic Medicine is stressed and it is pointed out that this scholar is Rhazes. The criticism of fatherhood is made and some results are obtained.

Key Words: Islamic Medicine, Rhazes, Fatherhood, Criticism

Historians are always very keen to begin with the early prehistoric activities of man and to follow the successive steps of the slow development of sciences, discoveries and inventions through the subsequent ages. They used to put light on the most eminent pioneer figures of the past who put the basis of these subjects. They consider them the founders and the fathers of these sciences. Historians are in agreement for the criteria of fatherhood in history of any science to be six items necessary to honour any one by this title :

- A real personality
- Having rational thinking
- Has original works
- New additions to the sciences
- Teaching and practicing the speciality
- Founding a teaching school

In this way and according to these measures many eminent medical personalities were honoured by historians, scientists and authors through all the past ages by respectable titles and orders.

The ancient Greeks and Romans accredited the ancient Egyptian physician - Imhotep - who lived in 2660 B.C. by deifying him as the God of Medicine, during that ancient time for his great activities in medicine (1)

The middle age historians and the great Greek scientists agreed to honour Hippocrates (460-377 B.C.) by Fatherhood of medicine for his original works and

additions. Ancient Greek scientists used to give him the titles of divine, sage and great. (2).

Galen, the eminent Greek physician of the second century (130 - 201 A.D.) was always referred to by the Islamic physicians as the respectable great physician (3).

The great Islamic physicians were also honoured during their life and after their death by the subsequent authors. Avicenna (980 - 1037) was usually accredited by being the Chief physician, the head of the Arab physicians and the first physician of his time (4). Abulcasis (936- 1013) was named the father of Arab surgery and the inventor of thermocautery (5). Rhazes (850 - 972) was greatly honoured during his life when he was selected as the most efficient physician of all Baghdad group by the Abbasid Caliph Al Mootassem (4)

The Father of Islamic Medicine

Islamic civilisation started its rapid progress at the seventh century. Very soon medicine as a science witnessed a good development in a short time and the great eminent physicians raised medicine from the depths to which it had fallen.

The great scientists and physicians of the middle ages and the European renaissance expressed their admiry and respect to the highly skillful Islamic physicians. They used to mention their names with great respect and gave them honourable descrip-

tions. Their written works were the leading references in their universities (7) In spite of that gratitude and admiry towards the great Islamic physicians no trials were seriously made to grade them according to their deligence and cleverness.

The present personal trial is planned to define and nominate the fatherhood of Islamic medicine by a well prepared questionnaire. The principle of which is based on distributing a special form containing 200 names of eminent Islamic physicians, to the well known contemporary physicians, authors and historians who have a good knowledge and publications in Islamic medicine, to choose the most brilliant five eminent Islamic physicians arranged according to their efficiency.

The answers came from different countries all over the world in a very precise and meticulous way. The data were collected and analysed. They gave a very confident voting result.

The pioneer Islamic physicians who got the highest score in voting are arranged in a descending way:

Abo Bakr El Razy (Rhazes)	69
Abu Aly Al Hussein (Avicenna)	15
Abul Kassem El Zahrawy (Abulcasis)	8
Alaa El Dine Elkorashey (Ibn El Nafees)	4
Isaac Ibn Honein (Ibn Honein)	4

In this way the great Islamic physician Rhazes comes on top of the whole group, with a higher score in voting than others, denoting his high skill, efficiency and cleverness and hence deserves the honour of being the father of Islamic medicine.

This voting trial that has been performed and completed in 2001 is a modified repetition of an ancient historical oral voting conducted during the ninth century, when the Abbasid Caliph in Baghdad - Al Mootassem Ibn Al Motawakkel, inquired his eminent state attendants to nominate the most efficient physician of his time and the answer was El Razy (6). This clearly signifies that the great brilliant men who were greatly respected during their life can have this high rank of respect even after their death and through the subsequent ages.

The lapse of time between the ninth and the twenty first century has not changed the favourite picture of the genius personality of Rhazes. The historians and eminent authors still retain the beliefs of the geneosity and the high efficiency of him.

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