중세 이슬람 문명이 근대 서구 문명에 미친 영향

-The Influences of Medieval Islamic Civilization on the Modern Western Civilization-

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<Abstract>

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Arab Muslim civilization contributed a great deal to the world in general and to the West in particular by helping bring about the European Renaissance, first in Spain and Portugal and later in Italy. It is obvious that the West is immensely indebted to the Arabs for many sciences: Astronomy, Mathematics, Algebra, Physics, Medicine, Pharmacology, Geography, Chemistry, Philosophy and so on.

Generally speaking, the Arab region provided the West with 3 major contributions: First, the Arabs’ Semitic ancestors in the Fertile Crescent and Egypt produced ancient civilizations, which benefited the earliest Western Civilizations of Greece and Rome. Second, the 3 Semitic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Third, the Post-Islamic Arab civilization contributed a lot to the European Renaissance. Among these 3 civilizations, the first two emerged from Palestine, are acknowledged partially in the West. But the last one i.e, Islamic Arab Civilization are usually ignored, distorted, and belittled by many scholars and experts.

It should be mentioned here that often times Muslim discoveries and works were translated by Europeans who attributed such discoveries and inventions to themselves, or incorporated them in their works without due credit. It is needless to say that all kinds of knowledge transferred from the muslims to the Europeans was the vital raw material for the Scientific Revolution. Muslims not only passed on Greek classical works but also introduced new scientific theories, without which the European Renaissance could not have occurred. Thus even though many of the Islamic contributions are still unacknowledged, it is apparent that they played integral role in the European Renaissance.

It's worth mentioning here that the text of Quran is replete with verses inviting man to use his intellect, to ponder, to think and to know, for the goal of human life is to discover the truth which is none other than