

April 2013

RENAISSANCE MONTHLY

Your monthly update on The Renaissance Project



LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

Mohamed Al Qadhi

"A Thirst for Knowledge"

Ibn Sina, Muslim of the Month

By Yasmin Sager

Friends,

After witnessing an overwhelmingly positive response for our first two newsletters, many readers have been puzzled by its recent discontinuation. I am here to assure you that the newsletter is back and here to stay



Part of the problem faced was the lack of manpower to deliver the publication on a monthly basis. I am happy to announce today that this is no longer the case; Jinan and Yasmin have been kind enough to offer much needed assistance in the production of "Aye of the Month" and "Muslim of the Month" respectively and will continue to do so in months to come.

With regards to The Renaissance Project updates, the past few months have been some of the most exciting and important months that we have ever witnessed:

The scholarship program was officially launched in January and 5 students were selected for financial assistance. Furthermore, I am currently working on expanding the program to assist a further 10 students in September this year.

On the events front- I am delighted to announce that the blood campaign initiative launched in February was very successful with a registered 15% increase in blood donations across the Emirate during the week of the campaign.

Finally, with the release of Chapter 11 "Water", Part 2 of Volume 1 has been completed. Part 3 is currently being written and inshala, will be released before Ramadan. This will be the final Part of Volume 1 and will investigate living organisms. Hope you enjoy our newsletter and our new and improved Aye of the Month episodes.

Mohamed Al Qadhi

Among the many brilliant minds of the Islamic Golden Age, a child prodigy shared his genius. A philosopher and a scientist, his name was Ibn Sina.

Ibn Sina (Avicenna in Latin) was born in 980 A.D. in a village called Afshana, near Bukhara, the capital of the Samanid Empire. His childhood revolved around education. Serving his independent thought and intrigue, he achieved a knowledge and understanding of the world most people don't possess until adulthood.



Gifted with extraordinary intelligence and keen memory, Ibn Sina memorized the entire Qur'an by age 10. He studied philosophy during his teenage years and turned to medicine at age 16. By the age of 18 Ibn Sina achieved the status of a qualified physician. His first appointment as a physician was with the Sultan of Bukhara, Nuh ibn Mansur, who summoned him for his medical expertise. Curing the Sultan from a dangerous illness, Ibn Sina was rewarded with access to the royal library for research.

Ibn Sina's most acclaimed works include "The Book of Healing," a philosophical and scientific encyclopedia, and "The Canon of Medicine," a medical encyclopedia compiled into five books. Written circa 1025 A.D., "The Canon of Medicine" was used by universities for more than six centuries following its publication and remains a required text for Unani medicine practices in India and Pakistan.

Apart from medicine and philosophy, Ibn Sina made contributions to many other fields; including astronomy, chemistry, geology, Islamic theology, logic, mathematics, music, paleontology, pharmacology, physics, poetry, and psychology.

Regarded as one of the most influential Muslim polymaths, Ibn Sina's remarkable ambition and boundless devotion to education is one to recognize and emulate.

OUT NOW: AI KITAB CHAPTER 11

My favorite Chapter of Al Kitab, Chapter 11, entitled "Water" is up on our website!. Download the chapter at: <http://www.the-renaissance-project.com/#!/al-kitab/c199t>

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AYE OF THE MONTH

أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا ءَامَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ (٢) – سورة العنكبوت



Introducing Maha: First Beneficiary of MQSF Fund



Expectations, especially when they are this high, are bound to disappoint. Yet as the interview progressed, I started to believe; believe that my expectations were well placed; that this girl is truly special.

Maha, 19 years of age, is just one of the 5 promising students selected by the MQSF Scholarship Fund. All 5 students this year, as chance would have it, are women, and each one of them brings something unique to the table:

Maha for example is a brilliant academic with a current grade of 97% average at her University (Jordan Science and Technology). Furthermore, she has a passion for healthcare. As a biomedical engineering student, she is determined to work hard in order to ease the suffering of people plagued by cancer and diabetes through the invention of new medical applications and appliances; a very noble cause indeed.

This is the beauty of our scholarship program: it is helping talented and passionate people like Maha realize their dreams, secure their future, and give back to society through catalyzing positive change. It is an embodiment of The Renaissance Project's main principles; principles I hope everyone of us can adopt in our daily lives

WHO WE'RE THANKFUL FOR

Azmi Shahin: Managing Director of Promise Welfare



In this segment, we recognize the work of individuals who have contributed to the success of the project. This month we recognize the contribution of

Azmi Shahin whose support has been critical to the success of the scholarship

program. Azmi and the Promise Welfare Society were gracious enough to provide logistical support, arrange interviews, help screen students, follow up on payments, and ensure proper documentation of procedures – all for free. Furthermore, his support has enabled us to legally raise funds to expand the program in the future. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

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Therenaissanceproj@gmail.com