Tracing the Scholars of Islam

Series 32

Abbas ibn Firnas

The Andalusian Scholar and Inventor Who Studied Birds and the Dream of Flight



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

TRACING THE SCHOLARS OF ISLAM

SERIES 32

ABBAS IBN FIRNAS

The Andalusian Scholar and Inventor Who Studied Birds and the Dream of Flight

أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا۟ إِلَى ٱلطَّيْرِ فَوْقَهُمْ صَٰٓفَّٰتٍ وَيَقْبِضْنَ ۚ مَا يُمْسِكُهُنَّ إِلَّا ٱلرَّحْمَٰنُ ۚ إِنَّهُۥ
بِكُلِّ شَىْءٍۭ بَصِيرٌ

"Do they not see the birds above them with wings outspread and [sometimes] folded in? None holds them [aloft] except the Most Merciful. Indeed He is, of all things, Seeing."

SURAH AL-MULK 67:19

HJ CHE ALIM HJ CHE HARON

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise is due to Allah, who holds the birds aloft in the air; none holds them up except the Most Merciful. Blessings and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, and upon his family and his Companions.

This eBook is specially dedicated to my beloved wife,

ZAHARAH MOHD LATIF;

my dear children,

MUHAMMAD HAFIZ, NOOR HAZWANI, ABDUL HAKIM, NOOR HIDAYAH, NOR AQILA and **NOR ATIQAH**;

and my sons- and daughters-in-law,

FAZILAH, MALEK, HANIN, FAIRIZAL and **FIRWAN**.

This thirty-second book of Tracing the Scholars of Islam tells the story of a poet, astronomer and inventor from Córdoba, whose name is linked with humanity's dream of flight. May his story teach us to be brave in trying, and honest in separating what is established from what is only a story.

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ABOUT THE COVER OF THIS EBOOK

The cover of this eBook is an **image generated by artificial intelligence (AI)** — an ***imaginative depiction, not a real likeness*** of Abbas ibn Firnas. This label is also printed on the cover. This time he appears as a **side silhouette** with **the setting sun behind him**, so his face is dark and not visible.

He stands on a **hill near Córdoba**, raising his hand towards a **flock of birds** in flight. Beside him is an unfinished **wooden wing frame covered with silk** — the evening light glows through the fabric.

Below lie **the city of Córdoba**, **the Guadalquivir river** and **the old bridge**. The image deliberately ***does not show him flying***, because the story of his flight comes only from a very late source.

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Colour guide: green box = verses of the Qur'an; gold box = Hadith; brown box = history note (reports from the books of history and biography); blue table = comparison. Underlined blue narrator names can be clicked to open the narrator's page on sunnah.com.

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ABBAS IBN FIRNAS

The thirty-second book of **Tracing the Scholars of Islam** tells the story of ***Abu al-Qasim 'Abbas ibn Firnas ibn Wirdas***, a poet, musician, astronomer and inventor at the Umayyad court of ***Córdoba***.

His name is famous worldwide because it is linked with an ***attempt to fly*** — an airport, a bridge and a lunar crater bear his name. Yet this eBook will show honestly ***what is established*** and ***what is only a story***.

This eBook also covers ***Córdoba*** in the Umayyad era, his inventions — ***crystal, glass, a water clock and an artificial sky*** — the modern ***science of flight***, ***humanity's long journey towards flight***, and lessons on ***honesty in storytelling***.

Note: The translation of Qur'anic verses in this eBook is that of Sahih International. The grading of each Hadith is stated in the Hadith box. Information from books of history and modern research is **biographical narration (not Hadith)** *and is placed in the brown "History Note" boxes. A cover image that shows the scholar is an AI-generated image and is marked as such. His year of birth is an estimate.*

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THE BIRDS ABOVE US

SURAH AL-MULK 67:19

أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا۟ إِلَى ٱلطَّيْرِ فَوْقَهُمْ صَٰٓفَّٰتٍ وَيَقْبِضْنَ ۚ مَا يُمْسِكُهُنَّ إِلَّا ٱلرَّحْمَٰنُ ۚ إِنَّهُۥ بِكُلِّ شَىْءٍۭ بَصِيرٌ ﴿١٩﴾

Do they not see the birds above them with wings outspread and [sometimes] folded in? None holds them [aloft] except the Most Merciful. Indeed He is, of all things, Seeing.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/67:19

Allah invites us to look at ***"the birds above them with wings outspread and [sometimes] folded in"*** — ***none holds them up*** except the Most Merciful. This wonder inspired many scholars to study the flight of birds. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 67:19.

The verse mentions two movements: wings ***outspread*** (gliding) and ***folded in*** (flapping). Modern science confirms that birds use both to fly — one to ***save energy***, the other to ***produce thrust***.

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BIRDS ALSO GLORIFY ALLAH

SURAH AN-NUR 24:41

أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ ٱللَّهَ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُۥ مَن فِى ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ وَٱلْأَرْضِ وَٱلطَّيْرُ صَٰٓفَّٰتٍ ۖ كُلٌّ قَدْ عَلِمَ صَلَاتَهُۥ وَتَسْبِيحَهُۥ ۗ وَٱللَّهُ عَلِيمٌۢ بِمَا يَفْعَلُونَ ﴿٤١﴾

Do you not see that Allah is exalted by whomever is within the heavens and the earth and [by] the birds with wings spread [in flight]? Each [of them] has known his [means of] prayer and exalting [Him], and Allah is Knowing of what they do.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/24:41

Allah speaks of ***"the birds with wings spread [in flight]" — "Each [of them] has known his [means of] prayer and exalting [Him]"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 24:41.

Birds are not merely objects of scientific study. They are also ***creatures that glorify*** Allah. When we study their flight, we are studying ***a creation that praises its Creator***.

BIRD	SPECIAL FEATURE OF ITS FLIGHT
Eagle	Soars high on rising warm air without much flapping.
Swallow	Flaps quickly and turns with agility.
Goose	Flies in a V formation to save energy.
Hummingbird	Can hover in one place and fly backwards.

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COMMUNITIES LIKE YOU

SURAH AL-AN'AM 6:38

وَمَا مِن دَآبَّةٍ فِى ٱلْأَرْضِ وَلَا طَٰٓئِرٍ يَطِيرُ بِجَنَاحَيْهِ إِلَّآ أُمَمٌ أَمْثَالُكُم ۚ مَّا فَرَّطْنَا فِى ٱلْكِتَٰبِ مِن شَىْءٍ ۚ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يُحْشَرُونَ ﴿٣٨﴾

And there is no creature on [or within] the earth or bird that flies with its wings except [that they are] communities like you. We have not neglected in the Register a thing. Then unto their Lord they will be gathered.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/6:38

Allah says: ***"there is no creature on [or within] the earth or bird that flies with its wings except [that they are] communities like you"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 6:38.

Birds live in ***communities***: they migrate together, build nests, care for their young and communicate. This verse teaches us to ***respect creatures*** and learn from them.

LEARNING FROM ALLAH'S CREATURES

CREATURE	LESSON FOR HUMANITY
Birds	Wing shape and gliding — the basis of aircraft design.
Fish	A smooth body shape — reducing water resistance.
Bees	The hexagon, strong and economical in material.
Spiders	Silk that is very strong for its weight.

Learning from Allah's creation is now called ***biomimicry***. Abbas ibn Firnas is said to have tried to imitate birds more than a thousand years before the term existed.

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THE AGE: UMAYYAD CÓRDOBA

In the 9th century CE, ***Córdoba*** was the capital of the ***Umayyad Emirate*** of al-Andalus. It was one of the largest and most advanced cities in Europe, with a great mosque, libraries, markets and a bridge across the ***Guadalquivir River***.

HISTORY NOTE: THE COURT OF EMIR 'ABD AR-RAHMAN II

Emir ***'Abd ar-Rahman II*** (ruled 822–852 CE) patronised poets, musicians and scholars. In his time the famous musician ***Ziryab*** came from Baghdad, bringing Eastern culture, music and manners to al-Andalus.

Abbas ibn Firnas lived in this setting, and continued to serve ***Muhammad I*** and later emirs.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Abbas ibn Firnas". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbas_ibn_Firnas

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CÓRDOBA IN THE TIME OF ABBAS IBN FIRNAS

ASPECT	DESCRIPTION
Government	The Umayyad Emirate of al-Andalus.
Mosque	The Great Mosque of Córdoba was enlarged by ‘Abd ar-Rahman II.
Learning	Books from the East were brought and copied.
Culture	Poetry, music and architecture flourished.
River	The Guadalquivir linked Córdoba to the sea.

This setting allowed a scholar like Abbas ibn Firnas to ***experiment*** in many fields. Learning needs ***stability, patronage and freedom of thought***.

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WHO WAS ABBAS IBN FIRNAS?

Abbas ibn Firnas ***was born around 810 CE*** in ***Ronda***, al-Andalus, of Berber descent. He moved to ***Córdoba*** and served at the court of Emir ***'Abd ar-Rahman II*** and his successors, as a poet and scholar.

He was known for his very wide interests: poetry, music, astronomy, chemistry and the design of devices. He ***died in Córdoba in 887 CE***.

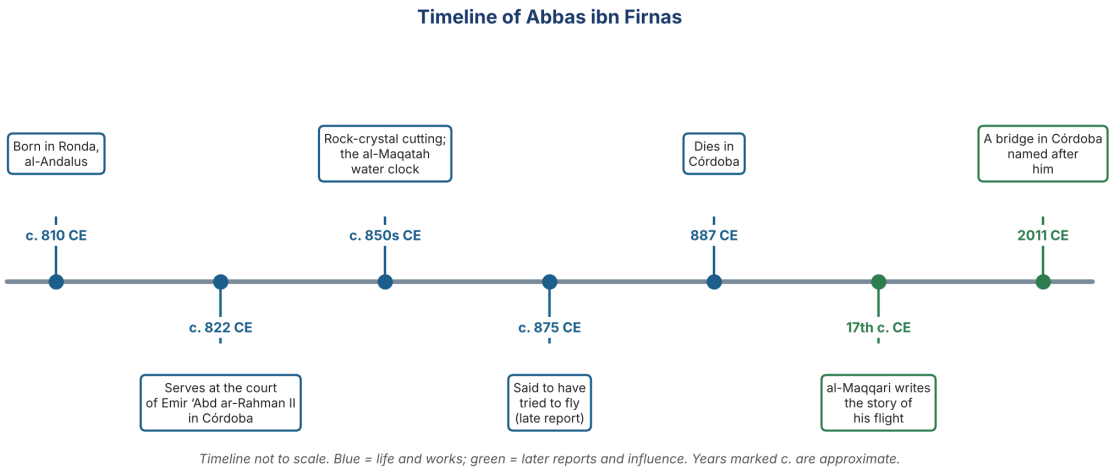


Figure 1: Timeline of Abbas ibn Firnas.

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POET, MUSICIAN AND ASTRONOMER

Abbas ibn Firnas is an example of a ***scholar of many fields***. Historical sources describe him as a court poet, musician, astronomer, chemist and inventor of devices.

FIELD	REPORTED CONTRIBUTION
Poetry	Court poet of Umayyad Córdoba.
Music	Taught and enjoyed music at court.
Astronomy	Brought the Sindhind astronomical tables to al-Andalus; built astronomical devices.
Chemistry	Cut rock crystal and made glass.
Engineering	The al-Maqatah water clock and a model of the heavens.

The ***Sindhind*** astronomical tables came from India and were translated in Baghdad. When they reached al-Andalus, they later influenced astronomy in Europe (Wikipedia: Abbas ibn Firnas).

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INTERCONNECTED KNOWLEDGE

SURAH AL-'ALAQ 96:4

ٱلَّذِى عَلَّمَ بِٱلْقَلَمِ ﴿٤﴾

Who taught by the pen?

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/96:4

Allah is the One ***"Who taught by the pen"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 96:4. Knowledge reached al-Andalus through ***copied books***, and was then developed by scholars like Abbas ibn Firnas.

In that age a scholar often mastered many fields. Poetry trained ***precision of language***, astronomy trained ***accuracy in calculation***, and handwork trained ***patience***. Each supported the others.

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CUTTING ROCK CRYSTAL

Before Abbas ibn Firnas, al-Andalus had to send ***rock crystal*** to Egypt to be cut. He is reported to have found ***a way to cut crystal*** locally, so that al-Andalus no longer depended on Egypt.

Rock crystal is ***clear quartz*** — silicon dioxide (SiO_2) with a hardness of ***7 on the Mohs scale***. It is used for lenses, prisms, jewellery, and today in ***electronic devices*** (CAMEO: Rock crystal).

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EATING FROM THE WORK OF ONE'S OWN HANDS

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 2072

حَدَّثَنَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ بْنُ مُوسَى، أَخْبَرَنَا عِيسَى، عَنْ ثَوْرٍ، عَنْ خَالِدِ بْنِ مَعْدَانَ، عَنِ الْمِقْدَامِ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « مَا أَكَلَ أَحَدٌ طَعَامًا قَطُّ خَيْرًا مِنْ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ مِنْ عَمَلِ يَدِهِ، وَإِنَّ نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ دَاوُدَ ـ عَلَيْهِ السَّلاَمُ ـ كَانَ يَأْكُلُ مِنْ عَمَلِ يَدِهِ ».

TRANSLATION:

Al-Miqdam رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"No one has ever eaten food better than what he eats from the work of his own hands. And the Prophet of Allah David عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ used to eat from the work of his own hands."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Ibrahim ibn Musa, from 'Isa ibn Yunus, from Thawr ibn Yazid, from Khalid ibn Ma'dan, from al-Miqdam ibn Ma'dikarib رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Sales (Kitab al-Buyu'), chapter on a man's earning and the work of his hands, Hadith No. 2072.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:2072

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

The best food is what one earns by one's own hands. The Prophet Dawud عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was a skilled smith. Abbas ibn Firnas's skill in cutting crystal made his land ***self-reliant***, no longer dependent on others.

SKILL	BENEFIT TO THE UMMAH
Cutting crystal	Al-Andalus no longer depended on Egypt.
Making glass	Containers, windows and scientific instruments.
Technology today	Nations that master technology are more self-reliant.

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GLASS AND READING LENSES

Abbas ibn Firnas is reported to have developed a way of making ***colourless glass*** and built ***glass planispheres***. He is also linked with ***magnifying lenses*** to help with reading, known as ***"reading stones"***.

HISTORY NOTE: GLASS IN AL-ANDALUS

Clear glass requires ***pure materials*** and ***very high temperatures***. This skill was important for making medicine bottles, chemical apparatus and lenses.

Reports about Abbas ibn Firnas's reading lenses come from late sources. The details ***need checking***, but they show his interest in ***light and vision***.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Abbas ibn Firnas". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbas_ibn_Firnas

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EXCELLENCE IN EVERY TASK

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1955

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو بَكْرِ بْنُ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ، حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ ابْنُ عُلَيَّةَ، عَنْ خَالِدٍ الْحَذَّاءِ، عَنْ أَبِي قِلاَبَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي الأَشْعَثِ، عَنْ شَدَّادِ بْنِ أَوْسٍ، قَالَ ثِنْتَانِ حَفِظْتُهُمَا عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَتَبَ الإِحْسَانَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَىْءٍ فَإِذَا قَتَلْتُمْ فَأَحْسِنُوا الْقِتْلَةَ وَإِذَا ذَبَحْتُمْ فَأَحْسِنُوا الذِّبْحَ وَلْيُحِدَّ أَحَدُكُمْ شَفْرَتَهُ فَلْيُرِحْ ذَبِيحَتَهُ».

TRANSLATION:

Shaddad ibn Aws رضى الله عنه said: Two things I memorised from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ; he said: **"Indeed Allah has prescribed excellence (ihsan) in everything.** So when you kill (where it is permitted), kill well; and when you slaughter, slaughter well. Let each of you sharpen his blade and spare his animal suffering."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Abu Bakr ibn Abi Shaybah, from Isma'il ibn 'Ulayyah, from Khalid al-Hadhdha', from Abu Qilabah, from Abu al-Ash'ath as-San'ani, from Shaddad ibn Aws رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Hunting and Slaughter, Hadith No. 1955.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim, the second most authentic book of Hadith after Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1955a

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Allah has prescribed excellence (ihsan) in everything. A careful glassmaker, an inventor who tests his device, and a student who completes homework neatly — all are ***practising ihsan***.

Clear glass does not come from careless work. Likewise ***beneficial knowledge*** requires precision, patience and sincerity.

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THE AL-MAQATAH WATER CLOCK

Abbas ibn Firnas is reported to have made a ***water clock*** called ***al-Maqatah***. A water clock measures time by a ***steady flow of water***, either flowing out of or into a vessel.

PART	FUNCTION
Water vessel	Holds the water that will flow.
Small hole	Controls the rate of flow so it stays steady.
Markings	Show the time by the water level.
Float	Moves with the water level to drive a pointer.

For Muslims, knowing the time is very important for ***prayer times*** and ***fasting***. Water clocks were key instruments before mechanical clocks were invented.

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TIME AS A TRUST

The water clock of Abbas ibn Firnas reminds us that ***time*** can be measured — and that we will be ***held accountable*** for it. Every drop that falls is a moment that will never return.

TIMEKEEPING DEVICE	DESCRIPTION
Sundial	Uses shadows; does not work at night.
Water clock	Uses flowing water; works day and night.
Mechanical clock	Uses gears and weights; came later.
Atomic clock	Extremely accurate; used in GPS today.

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AN ARTIFICIAL SKY

Abbas ibn Firnas is also reported to have built an ***artificial-sky room*** in his house, showing ***stars, clouds, thunder and lightning***. He also built a device imitating ***the motions of the planets and stars***.

SURAH LUQMAN 31:20

أَلَمْ تَرَوْا۟ أَنَّ ٱللَّهَ سَخَّرَ لَكُم مَّا فِى ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ وَمَا فِى ٱلْأَرْضِ وَأَسْبَغَ
عَلَيْكُمْ نِعَمَهُۥ ظَٰهِرَةً وَبَاطِنَةً ۗ وَمِنَ ٱلنَّاسِ مَن يُجَٰدِلُ فِى ٱللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ
وَلَا هُدًى وَلَا كِتَٰبٍ مُّنِيرٍ ﴿٢٠﴾

Do you not see that Allah has made subject to you whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth and amply bestowed upon you His favors, [both] apparent and unapparent? But of the people is he who disputes about Allah without knowledge or guidance or an enlightening Book [from Him].

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/31:20

Allah says: ***"Allah has made subject to you whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 31:20.

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FROM AN ARTIFICIAL SKY TO THE PLANETARIUM

DEVICE	FUNCTION
Armillary sphere	A model of the celestial circles for studying the motion of the stars.
Astrolabe	Measures the altitude of stars and finds the time.
Abbas ibn Firnas's sky room	Imitated stars, clouds, thunder and lightning.
Modern planetarium	Projects the sky onto a dome for education.

These models help people ***understand the heavens*** without waiting for a clear night. The aim is the same: ***reflecting on Allah's creation*** made subject to humanity.

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TESTED BY CRITICISM

Because of his interest in new things, Abbas ibn Firnas was ***criticised*** by some of his contemporaries.

HISTORY NOTE: A SCHOLAR TESTED BY CRITICISM

The court poet ***Mu'min ibn Sa'id*** wrote verses mocking him. Some of this mockery is thought to refer to his attempt to fly.

Even so, he kept the trust of the emirs of Córdoba. His life reminds us that ***innovation is often met with doubt*** before it is accepted.

REFERENCES:

Amusing Planet, "Did Abbas Ibn Firnas Make History's First Flight?". https://www.amusingplanet.com/2022/05/did-abbas-ibn-firnas-make-historys.html

SURAH ASH-SHARH 94:5

فَإِنَّ مَعَ ٱلْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ۝٥

For indeed, with hardship [will be] ease.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/94:5

"For indeed, with hardship [will be] ease". Tafsir Ibn Kathir 94:5.

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ALLAH DOES NOT BURDEN BEYOND CAPACITY

SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:286

لَا يُكَلِّفُ ٱللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا ۚ لَهَا مَا كَسَبَتْ وَعَلَيْهَا مَا ٱكْتَسَبَتْ ۗ رَبَّنَا
لَا تُؤَاخِذْنَآ إِن نَّسِينَآ أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا ۚ رَبَّنَا وَلَا تَحْمِلْ عَلَيْنَآ إِصْرًا كَمَا حَمَلْتَهُۥ عَلَى
ٱلَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِنَا ۚ رَبَّنَا وَلَا تُحَمِّلْنَا مَا لَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا بِهِۦ ۖ وَٱعْفُ عَنَّا وَٱغْفِرْ لَنَا
وَٱرْحَمْنَآ ۚ أَنتَ مَوْلَىٰنَا فَٱنصُرْنَا عَلَى ٱلْقَوْمِ ٱلْكَٰفِرِينَ ﴿٢٨٦﴾

Allah does not charge a soul except [with that within] its capacity. It will have [the consequence of] what [good] it has gained, and it will bear [the consequence of] what [evil] it has earned. "Our Lord, do not impose blame upon us if we have forgotten or erred. Our Lord, and lay not upon us a burden like that which You laid upon those before us. Our Lord, and burden us not with that which we have no ability to bear. And pardon us; and forgive us; and have mercy upon us. You are our protector, so give us victory over the disbelieving people."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:286

"Allah does not charge a soul except [with that within] its capacity". Tafsir Ibn Kathir 2:286.

CRITICISM	THE RIGHT ATTITUDE
Well-founded criticism	Accept it and improve the work.
Mockery without knowledge	Be patient and keep going.
A failed attempt	Learn from the mistake.
Excessive praise	Stay humble.

Every inventor will be tested. What matters is ***a sincere intention***, ***continued effort*** and ***patience*** with what people say.

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THE STORY OF THE FLIGHT ATTEMPT

According to the famous story, in his old age Abbas ibn Firnas put on ***wings of wood, silk and feathers*** and jumped from a high place near Córdoba. He is said to have glided for a while, then ***landed hard*** and hurt his back, realising he had ***forgotten to make a tail***.

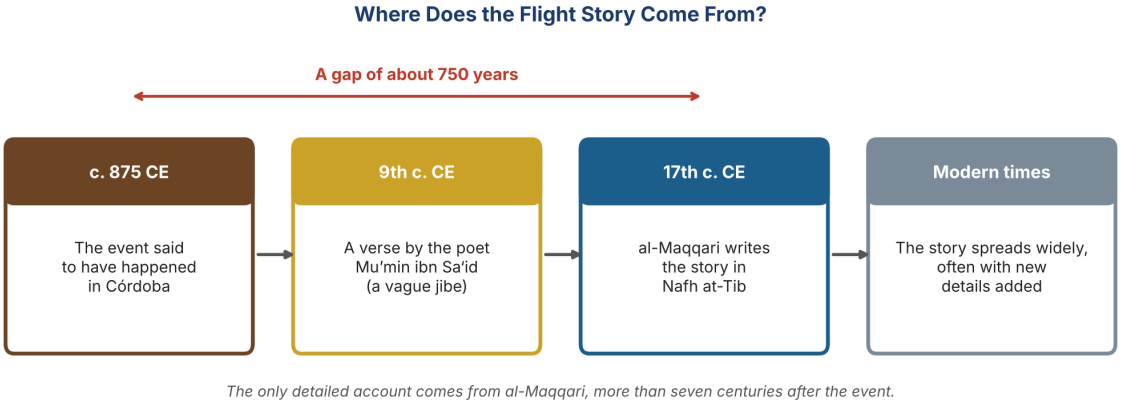


Figure 2: Where does the story of Abbas ibn Firnas's flight come from?

However, ***the only detailed account*** comes from the historian ***al-Maqqari*** in ***Nafh at-Tib***, written in the 17th century CE — more than ***seven centuries*** after the event. So this story ***cannot be confirmed***, even though it is very famous.

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SURAH AN-NAHL 16:79

أَلَمْ يَرَوْا۟ إِلَى ٱلطَّيْرِ مُسَخَّرَٰتٍ فِى جَوِّ ٱلسَّمَآءِ مَا يُمْسِكُهُنَّ إِلَّا ٱللَّهُ ۚ إِنَّ فِى ذَٰلِكَ لَءَايَٰتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿٧٩﴾

Do they not see the birds controlled in the atmosphere of the sky? None holds them up except Allah. Indeed in that are signs for a people who believe.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/16:79

Whatever the truth of that story, ***"None holds them up except Allah"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 16:79.

THE LESSON OF THE FORGOTTEN TAIL

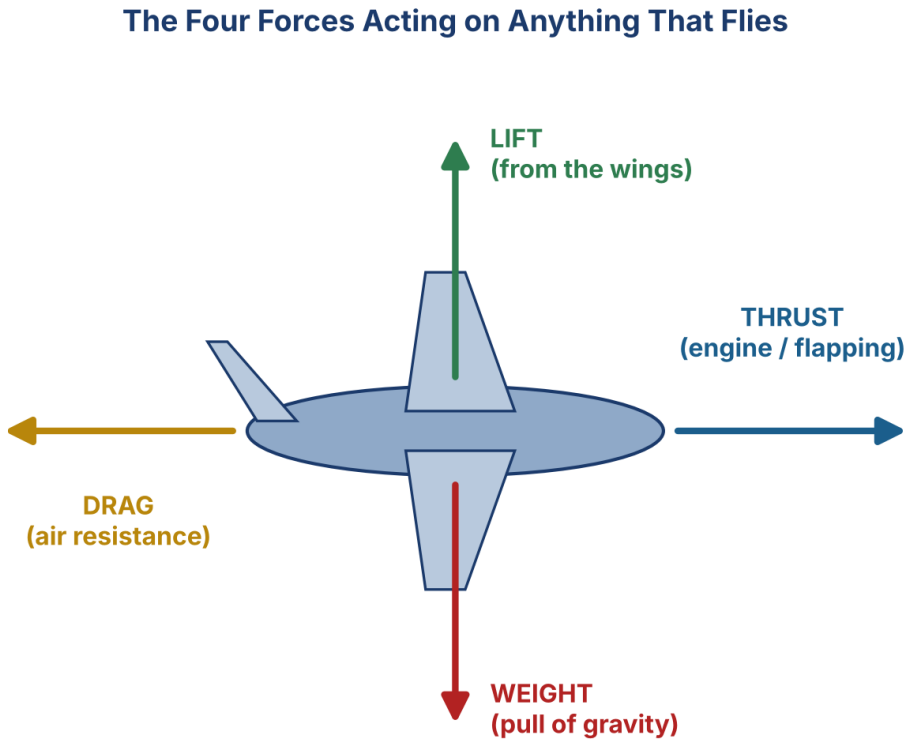
If the story is true, its lesson is very meaningful. Birds use their ***tail*** to ***balance the body*** and ***slow down*** when landing. Modern aircraft also have a ***tail*** with vertical and horizontal fins for stability.

PART OF A BIRD	EQUIVALENT ON AN AIRCRAFT
Wings	Wings that produce lift.
Tail	Tail fins for stability and control.
Wingtip feathers	Curved wingtips (winglets).
Folded legs	Wheels retracted in flight.

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THE SCIENCE OF FLIGHT: FOUR FORCES

Today we understand that anything that flies — a bird or an aircraft — is affected by ***four forces***: ***lift***, ***weight***, ***thrust*** and ***drag*** (NASA Glenn: Four Forces on an Airplane).



To fly, lift must overcome weight, and thrust must overcome drag.

Figure 3: The four forces acting on anything that flies.

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UNDERSTANDING THE FOUR FORCES

FORCE	DESCRIPTION (NASA)
Weight	The downward pull of gravity, depending on mass.
Lift	The upward force produced mainly by the wings as they move through the air.
Drag	Air resistance opposing motion; depends on shape and speed.
Thrust	The forward force from an engine — or from flapping wings in birds.

The main problem of early flight attempts was ***thrust*** and ***control***. Wings can produce lift for gliding, but human muscles are ***too weak*** for their body weight to flap like a bird.

The verse ***"None holds them [aloft] except the Most Merciful"*** reminds us that these laws of physics are also ***Allah's creation***.

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HOW DO BIRDS FLY?

Verse 67:19 mentions birds with wings ***outspread*** and ***folded in***. These two movements have different roles in a bird's flight.

FEATURE OF A BIRD	ROLE IN FLIGHT
Hollow bones	Light but strong; reduce weight.
Large chest muscles	Move the wings for thrust.
Overlapping feathers	Form a smooth wing surface.
Curved wing shape	Produces lift.
Tail	Balances and steers.
Lungs with air sacs	Supply oxygen efficiently.

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SPREADING AND FOLDING THE WINGS

MOVEMENT	USE
Spreading the wings	Soaring and gliding — saving energy.
Flapping the wings	Producing thrust to climb and move forward.
Folding the wings	Diving fast, like an eagle catching prey.

Each of these features is ***perfect for its purpose***. Humans needed more than ***a thousand years*** after Abbas ibn Firnas to imitate a small part of this ability.

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HUMANITY'S LONG JOURNEY TOWARDS FLIGHT

The story of Abbas ibn Firnas is only one of many stories of people trying to fly. In England, a monk named ***Eilmer of Malmesbury*** is also said to have attempted flight around 1010 CE.

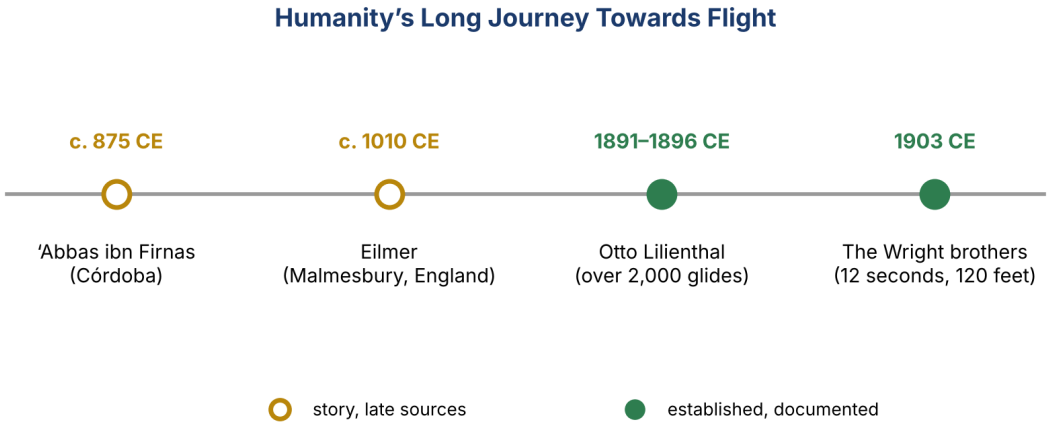


Figure 4: Humanity's long journey towards flight.

Well-documented flight began with ***Otto Lilienthal*** of Germany, who made ***more than 2,000 glides*** between 1891 and 1896 (Lemelson-MIT: Otto Lilienthal).

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THE WRIGHT BROTHERS, 1903

On ***17 December 1903***, ***Orville Wright*** flew a powered aircraft at Kitty Hawk, United States, for ***12 seconds*** over ***120 feet*** (Smithsonian).

SURAH AL-ISRA' 17:70

۞وَلَقَدۡ كَرَّمۡنَا بَنِيٓ ءَادَمَ وَحَمَلۡنَٰهُمۡ فِي ٱلۡبَرِّ وَٱلۡبَحۡرِ وَرَزَقۡنَٰهُم مِّنَ ٱلطَّيِّبَٰتِ وَفَضَّلۡنَٰهُمۡ عَلَىٰ كَثِيرٖ مِّمَّنۡ خَلَقۡنَا تَفۡضِيلٗا ٧٠

And We have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred them over much of what We have created, with [definite] preference.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/17:70

Allah says: ***"We have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and sea"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 17:70. Today people also travel ***through the air*** — another blessing to be thankful for.

YEAR	EVENT
c. 875 CE	The story of Abbas ibn Firnas's flight attempt (late source).
c. 1010 CE	The story of Eilmer of Malmesbury's flight attempt.
1891–1896 CE	Otto Lilienthal makes more than 2,000 glides.
1903 CE	The first powered flight by the Wright brothers.

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BRAVE TO TRY, HONEST WHEN WRONG

Every scientific attempt carries the risk of ***error***. Islam values sincere effort, as the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said about a judge who exercises judgement:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 7352

حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ يَزِيدَ، حَدَّثَنَا حَيْوَةُ، حَدَّثَنِي يَزِيدُ بْنُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ الْهَادِ، عَنْ مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ بْنِ الْحَارِثِ، عَنْ بُسْرِ بْنِ سَعِيدٍ، عَنْ أَبِي قَيْسٍ، مَوْلَى عَمْرِو بْنِ الْعَاصِ عَنْ عَمْرِو بْنِ الْعَاصِ، أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَقُولُ «إِذَا حَكَمَ الْحَاكِمُ فَاجْتَهَدَ ثُمَّ أَصَابَ فَلَهُ أَجْرَانِ، وَإِذَا حَكَمَ فَاجْتَهَدَ ثُمَّ أَخْطَأَ فَلَهُ أَجْرٌ». قَالَ فَحَدَّثْتُ بِهَذَا الْحَدِيثِ أَبَا بَكْرِ بْنَ عَمْرِو بْنِ حَزْمٍ فَقَالَ هَكَذَا حَدَّثَنِي أَبُو سَلَمَةَ بْنُ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ. وَقَالَ عَبْدُ الْعَزِيزِ بْنُ الْمُطَّلِبِ عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ أَبِي بَكْرٍ، عَنْ أَبِي سَلَمَةَ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم مِثْلَهُ.

TRANSLATION:

‘Amr ibn al-‘As رضى الله عنه reported that he heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say: **“When a judge gives a ruling, striving to reach the right view, and he is correct, he has two rewards; and when he gives a ruling, striving to reach the right view, and he errs, he has one reward.”**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from ‘Abdullah ibn Yazid al-Muqri’, from Haywah ibn Shurayh, from Yazid ibn ‘Abdullah ibn al-Had, from Muhammad ibn Ibrahim ibn al-Harith, from Busr ibn Sa‘id, from Abu Qays, the freed slave of ‘Amr ibn al-‘As, from ‘Amr ibn al-‘As رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Holding Fast to the Qur’an and Sunnah, Hadith No. 7352; also narrated by Muslim (No. 1716).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:7352

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

A ***correct*** judgement earns two rewards; a ***mistaken*** one still earns one reward. Honest effort is ***never wasted***, as long as it is based on knowledge.

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THE STRONG BELIEVER

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2664

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو بَكْرِ بْنُ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ، وَابْنُ، نُمَيْرٍ قَالاَ حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ إِدْرِيسَ، عَنْ رَبِيعَةَ بْنِ عُثْمَانَ، عَنْ مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ يَحْيَى بْنِ حَبَّانَ، عَنِ الأَعْرَجِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم « الْمُؤْمِنُ الْقَوِيُّ خَيْرٌ وَأَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِ الضَّعِيفِ وَفِي كُلٍّ خَيْرٌ احْرِصْ عَلَى مَا يَنْفَعُكَ وَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللَّهِ وَلاَ تَعْجِزْ وَإِنْ أَصَابَكَ شَىْءٌ فَلاَ تَقُلْ لَوْ أَنِّي فَعَلْتُ كَانَ كَذَا وَكَذَا. وَلَكِنْ قُلْ قَدَرُ اللَّهِ وَمَا شَاءَ فَعَلَ فَإِنَّ لَوْ تَفْتَحُ عَمَلَ الشَّيْطَانِ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"The strong believer is better and more beloved to Allah than the weak believer, and in both there is good. Strive for what benefits you, seek the help of Allah, and do not be weak. If something befalls you, do not say: If only I had done such-and-such, it would have been such-and-such. Rather say: Allah has decreed, and what He wills He does. For "if only" opens the door to the work of Satan."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Abu Bakr ibn Abi Shaybah and Muhammad ibn 'Abdillah ibn Numayr, from 'Abdullah ibn Idris, from Rabi'ah ibn 'Uthman, from Muhammad ibn Yahya ibn Habban, from 'Abd al-Rahman al-A'raj, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Divine Decree (Kitab al-Qadar), chapter on the command to be strong and to abandon weakness, Hadith No. 2664.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim, the second most authentic book of Hadith after Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2664

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Strive for what benefits you, seek Allah's help and do not give up. If you fail, do not say "if only", but accept Allah's decree and try again. This is the spirit of a Muslim inventor.

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HEARTS LIKE THE HEARTS OF BIRDS

Birds do not only teach people about flight. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ used birds as a likeness for the ***hearts*** of the people of Paradise:

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2840

حَدَّثَنَا حَجَّاجُ بْنُ الشَّاعِرِ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو النَّضْرِ، هَاشِمُ بْنُ الْقَاسِمِ اللَّيْثِيُّ حَدَّثَنَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ، - يَعْنِي ابْنَ سَعْدٍ - حَدَّثَنَا أَبِي، عَنْ أَبِي سَلَمَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ أَقْوَامٌ أَفْئِدَتُهُمْ مِثْلُ أَفْئِدَةِ الطَّيْرِ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه reported that the Prophet ﷺ said: **"Peoples will enter Paradise whose hearts are like the hearts of birds."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Hajjaj ibn ash-Sha'ir, from Abu an-Nadr Hashim ibn al-Qasim al-Laythi, from Ibrahim ibn Sa'd, from his father Sa'd ibn Ibrahim, from Abu Salamah, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Paradise, chapter: people will enter Paradise whose hearts are like the hearts of birds, Hadith No. 2840.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim, the second most authentic book of Hadith after Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2840

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Scholars explain that a heart like a bird's heart means a heart that is ***soft, quick to fear Allah***, and ***trusting in Him*** — like a bird that goes out each morning seeking provision without storing. A great scholar is one whose heart stays ***humble and gentle***.

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ALLAH LOOKS AT THE HEARTS

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2564

حَدَّثَنَا عَمْرٌو النَّاقِدُ، حَدَّثَنَا كَثِيرُ بْنُ هِشَامٍ، حَدَّثَنَا جَعْفَرُ بْنُ بُرْقَانَ، عَنْ يَزِيدَ بْنِ الأَصَمِّ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «إِنَّ اللَّهَ لاَ يَنْظُرُ إِلَى صُوَرِكُمْ وَأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَلَكِنْ يَنْظُرُ إِلَى قُلُوبِكُمْ وَأَعْمَالِكُمْ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه reported that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"Indeed, Allah does not look at your appearance or your wealth, but He looks at your hearts and your deeds."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from 'Amr an-Naqid, from Kathir ibn Hisham, from Ja'far ibn Burqan, from Yazid ibn al-Asamm, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Righteousness, Joining Ties and Manners, Hadith No. 2564c.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim, the second most authentic book of Hadith after Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2564c

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Allah does not look at appearance and wealth, but at hearts and deeds. The name of Abbas ibn Firnas is now famous worldwide, but what counts with Allah is ***his intention and deeds***. Fame is not the measure of true success.

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HONESTY IN STORYTELLING

The story of Abbas ibn Firnas is often ***embellished***. Some call him "the first man to fly", and some have even invented another figure named ***"Armen Firman"***.

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3461

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو عَاصِمٍ الضَّحَّاكُ بْنُ مَخْلَدٍ، أَخْبَرَنَا الأَوْزَاعِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا حَسَّانُ بْنُ عَطِيَّةَ، عَنْ أَبِي كَبْشَةَ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو، أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «بَلِّغُوا عَنِّي وَلَوْ آيَةً، وَحَدِّثُوا عَنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَلاَ حَرَجَ، وَمَنْ كَذَبَ عَلَيَّ مُتَعَمِّدًا فَلْيَتَبَوَّأْ مَقْعَدَهُ مِنَ النَّارِ».

TRANSLATION:

'Abdullah ibn 'Amr رضى الله عنهما reported that the Prophet ﷺ said: **"Convey from me, even if it is a single verse. And narrate from the Children of Israel, there is no harm (in it). And whoever lies about me deliberately, let him take his seat in the Fire."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Abu 'Asim ad-Dahhak ibn Makhlad, from al-Awza'i, from Hassan ibn 'Atiyyah, from Abu Kabshah as-Saluli, from 'Abdullah ibn 'Amr رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Prophets, Hadith No. 3461.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:3461

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ gave a stern warning against ***lying in his name***. This Hadith also teaches a general principle: be ***careful*** when passing something on, and ***do not embellish***, even with the intention of praise.

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HOW TO ASSESS A STORY

QUESTION	EXAMPLE FROM THE STORY OF ABBAS IBN FIRNAS
Who narrated it?	Al-Maqqari, a 17th-century historian.
How far is it from the event?	More than seven centuries.
Do early sources mention it?	Only a mocking hint in the poetry of Mu'min ibn Sa'id.
Were things added later?	Yes — "Armen Firman" and "the first man to fly".

This method is close to the way Hadith scholars assess an ***isnad***. Muslims have a ***tradition of rigour*** that we should inherit when writing history.

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THE LEGACY OF ABBAS IBN FIRNAS

Although the story of his flight cannot be confirmed, the name of Abbas ibn Firnas is honoured worldwide as a symbol of ***the courage to try***.

HONOUR	DESCRIPTION
Statue at Baghdad Airport	Made in 1973 by the sculptor Badri al-Samarrai.
A crater on the Moon	The “Ibn Firnas” crater was named by the International Astronomical Union in 1976.
A bridge in Córdoba	Across the Guadalquivir River; named after him in 2011.
An airline	A British airline was named after him.

Source: Wikipedia: Abbas ibn Firnas.

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THE TRUE LEGACY

The true legacy of Abbas ibn Firnas is not only the story of flight, but ***his way of thinking***: curious, brave to try, and learning from Allah's creatures.

VALUE	EXAMPLE FOR TODAY'S GENERATION
Curiosity	Asking "how" and "why" about nature.
Courage to try	Building science projects even if they may fail.
Self-reliance	Mastering skills so as not to depend on others.
Honesty	Admitting what is uncertain.

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ESTABLISHED REPORTS AND POPULAR STORIES

The table below separates what is established from what needs checking about Abbas ibn Firnas.

STORIES AND THEIR STATUS

POPULAR STATEMENT	STATUS
Abbas ibn Firnas served at the Umayyad court of Córdoba.	Established in Andalusian historical sources.
He found a way to cut rock crystal.	Reported in historical sources; accepted by many researchers.
He flew with wings and was injured on landing.	Weak in its sources. Only described in detail by al-Maqqari (17th century CE).
He was “the first man to fly”.	Exaggerated. Cannot be proven; flight-attempt stories also exist in other civilisations.
A man named “Armen Firman” jumped from a tower in Córdoba in 852 CE.	Very doubtful. No early source; possibly a confusion with Abbas ibn Firnas’s name.
He made glass from sand and reading lenses.	Reported in some sources; the details need checking.

REFLECTION — HONOURING WITHOUT EXAGGERATING

Abbas ibn Firnas still deserves respect as a scholar brave enough to try. We honour him honestly: holding to what is established, and marking what is only a story.

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LESSONS AND CONCLUSION

LESSONS FROM THIS EBOOK

First: Reflect on the birds in the sky — none holds them up but Allah (67:19; 16:79).

Second: Birds also glorify Allah and live as communities (24:41; 6:38).

Third: Knowledge comes through the pen (96:4).

Fourth: Master skills to become self-reliant (Sahih al-Bukhari 2072).

Fifth: Do every task with excellence (Sahih Muslim 1955).

Sixth: Value time — every moment will never return.

Seventh: Be patient with criticism (94:5; 2:286).

Eighth: Understand the laws of nature created by Allah — the four forces of flight.

Ninth: Sincere effort is never wasted (Sahih al-Bukhari 7352; Sahih Muslim 2664).

Tenth: Keep a soft and trusting heart (Sahih Muslim 2840, 2564).

Eleventh: Be honest in storytelling — do not embellish (Sahih al-Bukhari 3461).

Twelfth: Distinguish established history from popular stories.

CONCLUSION

Abbas ibn Firnas died in Córdoba in 887 CE. In 2011 a bridge in Córdoba was named after him. The next book of **Tracing the Scholars of Islam**, in sha' Allah, will tell the story of ***al-Idrisi***, the geographer who drew a map of the world for the King of Sicily. Wallahu a'lam.

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GLOSSARY AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

GLOSSARY

TERM	MEANING
Lift	The upward force produced by the wings.
Drag	Air resistance to motion.
Thrust	The force pushing forward.
Rock crystal	Clear quartz (silicon dioxide).
Water clock	A device measuring time by flowing water.
Biomimicry	Designing technology by imitating living things.
Emirate	A state ruled by an emir.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. According to verse 67:19, what holds the birds up?

2. Why was the skill of cutting crystal important for al-Andalus?

3. What are the four forces acting on anything that flies?

4. Why is the story of Abbas ibn Firnas's flight considered weak in its sources?

5. How should we respond when our efforts are criticised?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Watch the birds around your home. Note when they flap and when they glide.

Activity 2: Make a paper aeroplane. Test it with and without a "tail", and compare the results.

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SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:261

مَّثَلُ ٱلَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ أَمۡوَٰلَهُمۡ فِي سَبِيلِ ٱللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ حَبَّةٍ أَنۢبَتَتۡ سَبۡعَ سَنَابِلَ فِي كُلِّ سُنۢبُلَةٖ مِّاْئَةُ حَبَّةٖۗ وَٱللَّهُ يُضَٰعِفُ لِمَن يَشَآءُۚ وَٱللَّهُ وَٰسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ٢٦١

The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:261

SURAH SABA' 34:39

قُلۡ إِنَّ رَبِّي يَبۡسُطُ ٱلرِّزۡقَ لِمَن يَشَآءُ مِنۡ عِبَادِهِۦ وَيَقۡدِرُ لَهُۥۚ وَمَآ أَنفَقۡتُم مِّن شَيۡءٖ فَهُوَ يُخۡلِفُهُۥۖ وَهُوَ خَيۡرُ ٱلرَّٰزِقِينَ ٣٩

Say, "Indeed, my Lord extends provision for whom He wills of His servants and restricts [it] for him. But whatever thing you spend [in His cause] - He will compensate it; and He is the best of providers."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/34:39

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2588

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، وَابْنُ، حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - وَهُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « مَا نَقَصَتْ صَدَقَةٌ مِنْ مَالٍ وَمَا زَادَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا بِعَفْوٍ إِلاَّ عِزًّا وَمَا تَوَاضَعَ أَحَدٌ لِلَّهِ إِلاَّ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Charity does not decrease wealth.

Allah does not increase a servant who forgives except in honour. And no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah except that Allah raises him in rank."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه .

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Virtue, Good Manners and Joining the Ties of Kinship (Kitab al-Birr wa al-Silah wa al-Adab), chapter on the encouragement of forgiveness and humility, Hadith No. 2588.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2588

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1631

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ - يَعْنِي ابْنَ سَعِيدٍ - وَابْنُ حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - هُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « إِذَا مَاتَ الإِنْسَانُ انْقَطَعَ عَنْهُ عَمَلُهُ إِلاَّ مِنْ ثَلاَثَةٍ إِلاَّ مِنْ صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "When a person dies, his deeds come to an end except for three: an ongoing charity, knowledge that is benefited from, or a righteous child who prays for him."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه .

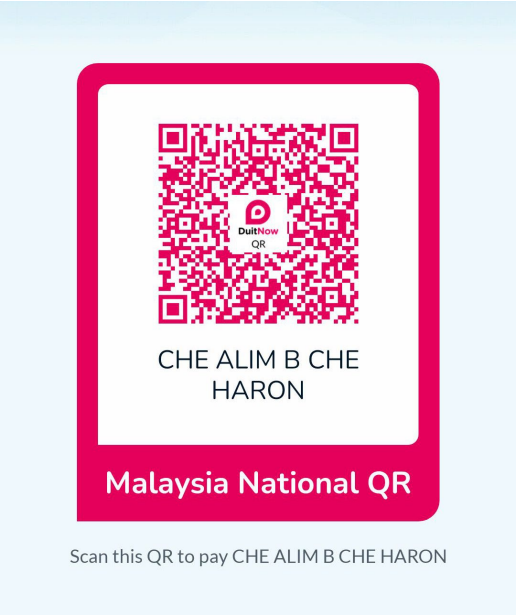
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GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1631

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