Tracing the Scholars of Islam

Series 21

al-Battani

The Astronomer of al-Raqqa Who Measured the Year With Remarkable Precision



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Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

TRACING THE SCHOLARS OF ISLAM

SERIES 21

AL-BATTANI

The Astronomer of al-Raqqa Who Measured the Year With Remarkable Precision

وَهُوَ ٱلَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ ٱلنُّجُومَ لِتَهۡتَدُواْ بِهَا فِي ظُلُمَٰتِ ٱلۡبَرِّ وَٱلۡبَحۡرِۗ قَدۡ فَصَّلۡنَا ٱلۡأٓيَٰتِ لِقَوۡمٖ يَعۡلَمُونَ

"And it is He who placed for you the stars that you may be guided by them through the darknesses of the land and sea. We have detailed the signs for a people who know."

SURAH AL-AN'AM 6:97

HJ CHE ALIM HJ CHE HARON

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise is due to Allah, who placed the stars as guides through the darknesses of land and sea. 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 twenty-first book of Tracing the Scholars of Islam tells the story of an astronomer who observed the sky for more than forty years, and who distinguished true astronomy from superstitions about the stars. May his story increase our awe of the Creator of the heavens.

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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 al-Battani. This label is also printed on the cover. This time we look **from the foot of the stairs, upward**, to the roof of an observatory in al-Raqqa, and he is seen **from behind**.

He is sighting a star with a large **angle-measuring instrument** of wood and brass. The tube in his hand is a ***sighting tube without lenses*** — not a telescope, since the telescope was invented only about seven hundred years later. The **golden lines** across the sky represent the angles he measured.

Above him stretches the **night sky** with the Milky Way, **star trails** circling the pole star, and a **crescent moon** — a symbol of the astronomy that determines times of worship. A **lantern** on the stairs lights the way up to the observatory.

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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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AL-BATTANI

The twenty-first book of **Tracing the Scholars of Islam** tells the story of ***Abu 'Abdillah Muhammad ibn Jabir ibn Sinan al-Battani***, the astronomer who observed the sky at ***al-Raqqa***, Syria, for ***more than forty years***. The length of the year he measured differs by only ***about two minutes*** from the modern value.

His book, ***Kitab al-Zij***, was translated into Latin and consulted by European astronomers, including ***Copernicus***. A crater on the moon is named ***Albategnius*** after him.

This eBook explores ***the cities of Harran and al-Raqqa***, the ***observing instruments*** he used, his contributions to ***trigonometry, precession and eclipses***, the link between astronomy and ***prayer times and fasting***, the difference between ***astronomy and astrology***, and his legacy as far as Europe.

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 report (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. Al-Battani's year of birth is not known precisely.*

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THE STARS AS GUIDES

SURAH AL-AN'AM 6:97

وَهُوَ ٱلَّذِى جَعَلَ لَكُمُ ٱلنُّجُومَ لِتَهۡتَدُواْ بِهَا فِى ظُلُمَٰتِ ٱلۡبَرِّ وَٱلۡبَحۡرِۗ قَدۡ فَصَّلۡنَا ٱلۡأٓيَٰتِ لِقَوۡمٍ يَعۡلَمُونَ ٩٧

And it is He who placed for you the stars that you may be guided by them through the darknesses of the land and sea. We have detailed the signs for a people who know.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/6:97

EXPLANATION OF VERSE 6:97

Allah ***"placed for you the stars that you may be guided by them through the darknesses of the land and sea"***. The stars are ***guides***, not decrees of fate. The verse ends by addressing ***a people who know*** — those who study. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 6:97.

THE SUN AND THE MOON RUN BY DECREE

SURAH YA SIN 36:38–40

وَٱلشَّمۡسُ تَجۡرِى لِمُسۡتَقَرّٖ لَّهَاۚ ذَٰلِكَ تَقۡدِيرُ ٱلۡعَزِيزِ ٱلۡعَلِيمِ ٣٨

And the sun runs [on course] toward its stopping point. That is the determination of the Exalted in Might, the Knowing.

وَٱلۡقَمَرَ قَدَّرۡنَٰهُ مَنَازِلَ حَتَّىٰ عَادَ كَٱلۡعُرۡجُونِ ٱلۡقَدِيمِ ٣٩

And the moon - We have determined for it phases, until it returns [appearing] like the old date stalk.

لَا ٱلشَّمۡسُ يَنۢبَغِى لَهَآ أَن تُدۡرِكَ ٱلۡقَمَرَ وَلَا ٱلَّيۡلُ سَابِقُ ٱلنَّهَارِۚ وَكُلّٞ فِى فَلَكٖ يَسۡبَحُونَ ٤٠

It is not allowable for the sun to reach the moon, nor does the night overtake the day, but each, in an orbit, is swimming.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/36:38-40

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Allah says that the sun ***"runs [on course] toward its stopping point"***, the moon has been given ***"phases"***, and ***"each, in an orbit, is swimming"***. This decree is what allows astronomers like al-Battani to ***calculate and predict*** the motions of the heavens. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 36:38.

NAVIGATING BY THE STARS

Before compasses and GPS, Muslim sailors in the Indian Ocean and travellers crossing the desert relied on ***the stars*** to find their way. Navigators such as ***Ahmad ibn Majid*** (15th century CE) wrote manuals listing the stars used for navigation — a living example of verse 6:97.

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THE HEAVENS IN THE QUR'AN

The word ***falak*** — which gave its name to Islamic astronomy, ***'ilm al-falak*** — comes from the Qur'an itself:

SURAH AL-ANBIYA' 21:33

وَهُوَ ٱلَّذِى خَلَقَ ٱلَّيۡلَ وَٱلنَّهَارَ وَٱلشَّمۡسَ وَٱلۡقَمَرَۖ كُلٌّ فِى فَلَكٍ يَسۡبَحُونَ ٣٣

And it is He who created the night and the day and the sun and the moon; all [heavenly bodies] in an orbit are swimming.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/21:33

Allah says of the sun and moon: ***"all [heavenly bodies] in an orbit are swimming"***. The Arabic word ***falak*** in this verse means ***an orbit*** or path of motion. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 21:33.

A SKY IN PERFECT ORDER

SURAH AL-MULK 67:3

ٱلَّذِى خَلَقَ سَبۡعَ سَمَٰوَٰتٍ طِبَاقًاۖ مَّا تَرَىٰ فِى خَلۡقِ ٱلرَّحۡمَٰنِ مِن تَفَٰوُتٍۖ فَٱرۡجِعِ ٱلۡبَصَرَ هَلۡ تَرَىٰ مِن فُطُورٍ ٣

[And] who created seven heavens in layers. You do not see in the creation of the Most Merciful any inconsistency. So return [your] vision [to the sky]; do you see any breaks.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/67:3

Allah challenges humankind: ***"So return [your] vision [to the sky]; do you see any breaks"***. Al-Battani did exactly this: ***returning his gaze*** to the sky for forty years, and finding an order that could be measured and calculated. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 67:3.

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THE AGE: HARRAN AND AL-RAQQA

Harran was an ancient city in northern Mesopotamia famous as a centre of ***star lore***. Its people, the ***Sabians of Harran***, inherited Babylonian and Greek traditions of astronomy. The city produced many scholars, including ***Thabit ibn Qurra*** (see Book 19).

> **HISTORY NOTE: AL-RAQQA: THE SUMMER CAPITAL**
>
> ***Al-Raqqa***, on the banks of the ***Euphrates***, was the residence of Caliph ***Harun ar-Rashid*** between 796 and 808 CE. He built palaces and a new city there, making it one of the most important cities of the Abbasid empire.
>
> In al-Battani's time, Baghdad was still the centre of learning, but provincial cities such as al-Raqqa also had ***observatories*** and ***libraries***. This shows that knowledge had ***spread*** throughout the Muslim world, not only in the capital.

LESSON

Al-Battani did not work at the court in Baghdad, but in ***a provincial city***. Excellence does not depend on place; it depends on ***effort and perseverance***.

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THE SABIANS OF HARRAN

The ***Sabians of Harran*** were a community that preserved ancient religious traditions and star lore into the Abbasid era. Qur'anic commentators ***differ*** on whether they are the Sabians mentioned in the Qur'an, as the name was used for several different groups.

Many great scholars of the Abbasid age came from this community, including ***Thabit ibn Qurra*** and his family. Some kept their original religion, and some ***embraced Islam***, like al-Battani's family. The Muslim world of that time gave room to scholars of many backgrounds to ***contribute to knowledge***.

LESSON

A person's origins do not bar them from ***guidance and knowledge***. Al-Battani, from a Sabian family, became one of the greatest Muslim astronomers.

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WHO WAS AL-BATTANI?

Al-Battani is estimated to have been ***born around 858 CE*** near ***Harran*** (today in southern Turkey). His family came from the Sabians of Harran, known for their knowledge of the stars, but his name, ***Muhammad***, shows that he was a ***Muslim***.

HISTORY NOTE: THE OBSERVATORY AT AL-RAQQA

According to al-Fihrist, al-Battani ***observed the sky from 877 to 918 CE*** at ***al-Raqqa***, on the banks of the Euphrates. He also made observations at Antioch.

He ***died in 929 CE*** at ***Qasr al-Jiss***, near Samarra, on his way back from Baghdad to al-Raqqa.

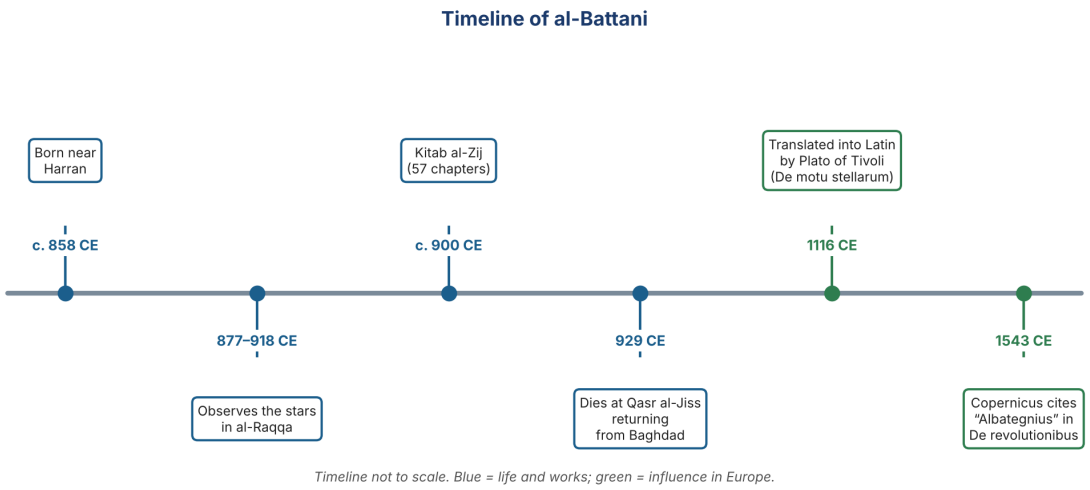


Figure 1: Timeline of al-Battani.

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A FAMILY OF INSTRUMENT MAKERS

His father, ***Jabir ibn Sinan al-Harrani***, was known as ***a maker of astronomical instruments***, especially ***astrolabes***. Al-Battani grew up among workshops and measuring tools, and this skill helped him build his own observing instruments.

The lesson: ***family skills*** can become the foundation for higher scholarly achievement. Parents with skills can ***pass them on*** to their children as a path to knowledge and livelihood.

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OBSERVING INSTRUMENTS

Al-Battani observed the sky ***without a telescope***. He used instruments that measure ***angles*** and ***time*** precisely.

INSTRUMENT	USE
Mural quadrant	A large arc fixed to a wall to measure the altitude of the sun and stars as they cross the meridian.
Armillary sphere	Intersecting rings representing the circles of the sky, used to measure the positions of stars.
Gnomon (shadow stick)	An upright stick whose shadow shows the sun's altitude, the time and the season.
Astrolabe	A brass instrument for measuring the altitude of stars and calculating time.
Sighting tube	A tube without lenses to focus the eye on a particular star.

PRECISION WITHOUT MODERN TECHNOLOGY

With these instruments, al-Battani measured angles to the ***minute of arc*** (1/60 of a degree). This precision came from ***large instruments***, ***repeated observation*** and ***careful calculation*** (Britannica: astrolabe).

LESSON

Simple instruments in the hands of a ***diligent and careful*** person can produce extraordinary knowledge. What matters is not how sophisticated the tool is, but ***the dedication of its user***.

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OBSERVATORIES IN ISLAMIC CIVILISATION

OBSERVATORY	DESCRIPTION
Baghdad and Damascus (9th century CE)	Built in al-Ma'mun's time to check astronomical tables.
Al-Raqqa (c. 877–918 CE)	Where al-Battani observed for more than forty years.
Maragha, Persia (1259 CE)	Led by Nasir ad-Din at-Tusi; it had a great library and giant instruments.
Samarkand (1420s CE)	Built by Ulugh Beg; its meridian quadrant was enormous.
Istanbul (1577 CE)	The observatory of Taqi ad-Din in the Ottoman era.

Islamic observatories were among the earliest ***scientific institutions*** with their own ***staff, instruments and libraries*** — models for the modern observatory (Britannica: observatory).

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FORTY YEARS OBSERVING THE SKY

SURAH AL 'IMRAN 3:190–191

إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ وَٱلْأَرْضِ وَٱخْتِلَٰفِ ٱلَّيْلِ وَٱلنَّهَارِ لَءَايَٰتٍ لِّأُو۟لِى ٱلْأَلْبَٰبِ ﴿١٩٠﴾

Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of the night and the day are signs for those of understanding.

ٱلَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ ٱللَّهَ قِيَٰمًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ فِي خَلْقِ ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ وَٱلْأَرْضِ رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَٰذَا بَٰطِلًا سُبْحَٰنَكَ فَقِنَا عَذَابَ ٱلنَّارِ ﴿١٩١﴾

Who remember Allah while standing or sitting or [lying] on their sides and give thought to the creation of the heavens and the earth, [saying], "Our Lord, You did not create this aimlessly; exalted are You [above such a thing]; then protect us from the punishment of the Fire."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/3:190-191

His observations were gathered in ***Kitab al-Zij*** (57 chapters). Among his achievements: a ***tropical year of 365 days 5 hours 46 minutes 24 seconds***, an obliquity of the ecliptic of ***23° 35'***, and a ***precession of the equinoxes of 54.5" per year***. He also questioned the assumption that the ***farthest point of the sun's orbit*** never changes, and used ***trigonometric functions*** in astronomical calculations.

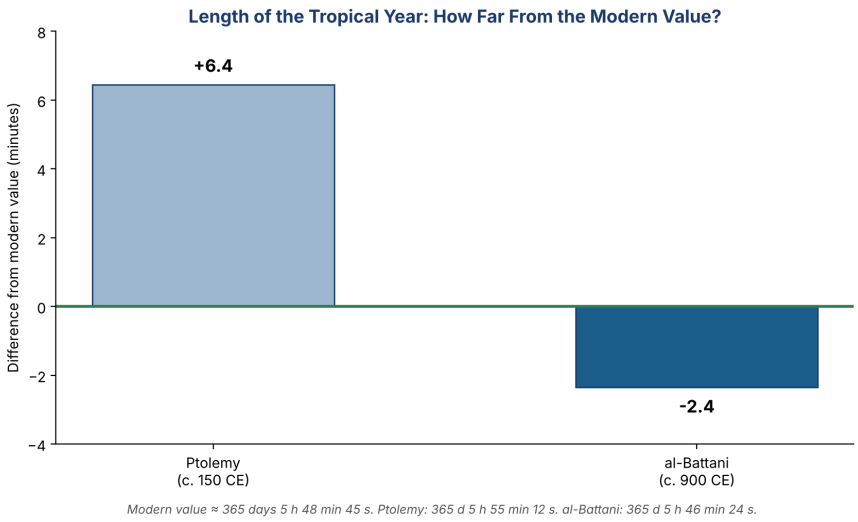


Figure 2: The accuracy of al-Battani's tropical year compared with Ptolemy's.

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AL-BATTANI'S VALUES COMPARED WITH MODERN VALUES

MEASUREMENT	AL-BATTANI COMPARED WITH MODERN VALUES
Length of the tropical year	Al-Battani: 365 d 5 h 46 m 24 s. Modern: about 365 d 5 h 48 m 45 s.
Obliquity of the ecliptic	Al-Battani: 23° 35'. Modern (for his time): about 23° 35'; today about 23° 26'.
Precession of the equinoxes	Al-Battani: 54.5" per year. Modern: about 50.3" per year.
Apogee of the sun	Al-Battani found its position had moved since Ptolemy's time — correct according to modern science.

Modern values are taken from astronomical sources such as (NASA: Earth facts). The small differences show the ***extraordinary precision*** of naked-eye observation in the 9th century CE.

LESSON

Accurate knowledge is born of ***years of patience***. Forty years of observing the sky prove that ***perseverance outweighs mere cleverness***.

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THE CONTENTS OF KITAB AL-ZIJ

Kitab al-Zij, also known as ***az-Zij as-Sabi'***, contains ***57 chapters*** and many tables. It was a main reference for astronomers for centuries.

SECTION	CONTENTS
Introduction	Division of the celestial circle, degrees and minutes, and the basics of trigonometry.
The sun	Length of the year, obliquity of the ecliptic, position of the apogee and calculation of the seasons.
The moon	The moon's motion, its phases and the calculation of new moons.
The planets	Positions of Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.
Eclipses	Methods for predicting solar and lunar eclipses.
Star catalogue	A list of the positions of hundreds of fixed stars, updated for precession.
Calendars	Conversion between the Hijri, Persian, Roman and other calendars.

A PRACTICAL REFERENCE

Kitab al-Zij was written to be ***used***, not just read. Astronomers used it to calculate times, calendars and star positions. A modern critical edition was published by ***Carlo Alfonso Nallino*** (1899–1907), allowing researchers today to judge its accuracy.

LESSON

Good knowledge is knowledge that ***can be used*** and ***can be checked***. Al-Battani wrote clear tables so that others could repeat his calculations.

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PERSEVERANCE: THE SECRET OF FORTY YEARS

What was the secret of al-Battani's precision? The answer is ***perseverance***: observing ***every night***, recording every number, and repeating calculations for four decades. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ taught that consistent deeds are more beloved to Allah:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 6464

حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الْعَزِيزِ بْنُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، حَدَّثَنَا سُلَيْمَانُ، عَنْ مُوسَى بْنِ عُقْبَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي سَلَمَةَ بْنِ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ، عَنْ عَائِشَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « سَدِّدُوا وَقَارِبُوا، وَاعْلَمُوا أَنْ لَنْ يُدْخِلَ أَحَدَكُمْ عَمَلُهُ الْجَنَّةَ، وَأَنَّ أَحَبَّ الأَعْمَالِ أَدْوَمُهَا إِلَى اللَّهِ، وَإِنْ قَلَّ

«

TRANSLATION:

'A'ishah رضى الله عنها narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"Aim for what is right and come as close as you can (to perfection), and know that no one's deeds alone will admit him to Paradise. And the deeds most beloved to Allah are those done consistently, even if they are few."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn 'Abdullah al-Uwaysi, from Sulayman ibn Bilal, from Musa ibn 'Uqbah, from Abu Salamah ibn 'Abd ar-Rahman, from 'A'ishah رضى الله عنها.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Softening the Heart (Kitab ar-Riqaq), Hadith No. 6464.

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:6464

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

A deed that is ***small but consistent*** is better than one that is large but interrupted. In learning, a student who reads a little every day will go further than one who studies a lot once in a while. Al-Battani is an example of ***istiqamah*** in knowledge.

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TRIGONOMETRY: SINES AND SHADOWS

One of al-Battani's great contributions was ***advancing the use of trigonometry*** in astronomy. Greek astronomers such as Ptolemy used ***chords***, but al-Battani used ***sines***, which came from India — a simpler method that became the basis of modern trigonometry.

CONTRIBUTION	DESCRIPTION
Sines instead of chords	Made astronomical calculations simpler and more precise.
Tables of "shadows"	Tables known today as cotangents, based on the length of a gnomon's shadow.
Spherical triangle formula	A relation equivalent to the spherical law of cosines, used to calculate positions in the sky.
Practical use	Calculating the sun's altitude, the time and the direction of the qiblah.

Historians of mathematics regard al-Battani as one of the figures who ***organised trigonometry*** as a main tool of astronomy (MacTutor: al-Battani).

LESSON

The shadow of a stick — something seen every day — became the basis of trigonometry. Great knowledge often begins with ***observing simple things***.

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TRIGONOMETRY TODAY

The trigonometry advanced by al-Battani is now used everywhere: ***GPS*** calculates position from angles and distances to satellites; ***engineers*** design bridges and buildings; ***pilots and sailors*** find their direction; and ***qiblah apps*** calculate the direction of the Ka'bah from anywhere in the world (Britannica: trigonometry).

Every time we use a map on our phones, we enjoy the fruits of knowledge once calculated by hand by astronomers such as al-Battani.

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THE SUN, THE MOON AND THE SEASONS

Al-Battani found that ***the position of the apogee*** (the apparent farthest point of the sun's orbit) had ***changed*** since Ptolemy's time. This was important because it showed that the earth's orbit is not entirely fixed.

WHY ARE THE SEASONS UNEQUAL IN LENGTH?

The earth's orbit around the sun is an ***ellipse***, not a perfect circle. So the earth moves ***faster*** when close to the sun and ***slower*** when far away. As a result, the seasons in the northern hemisphere are not equal in length — a fact carefully measured by early astronomers (NASA: Earth's orbit).

THE PHASES OF THE MOON

The moon passes through its phases in about ***29.5 days*** (the synodic month). Phases occur because we see the sunlit part of the moon from different angles (NASA: Moon phases). This is the basis of the Hijri calendar, whose months have 29 or 30 days.

LESSON

Allah's decree in the motion of the sun and moon allows humans to ***reckon time***. Every phase of the moon is ***a reminder*** of time passing.

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PRECESSION: THE SLOWLY TURNING AXIS OF THE EARTH

Al-Battani measured ***the precession of the equinoxes*** — the slow movement of the equinox points in the sky. Today we know its cause: ***the earth's spin axis turns slowly like a spinning top***, completing one cycle in about 26,000 years.

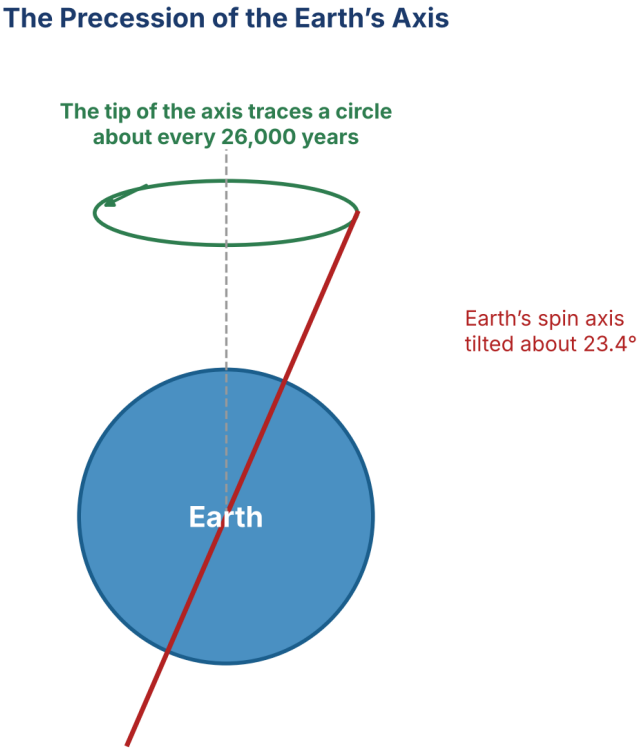


Figure 3: The precession of the earth's axis.

MODERN SCIENCE

Precession happens because of ***the gravitational pull of the sun and moon*** on the earth's equatorial bulge. It causes ***the pole star*** to change over time — thousands of years ago, the pole star was not Polaris (NASA: precession).

Al-Battani's measurement (54.5" per year) was more accurate than Ptolemy's (36" per year), and helped later astronomers understand this phenomenon.

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THE ACCURACY OF THE YEAR AND THE CALENDAR

Why is the exact length of the year so important? Because ***the solar calendar*** depends on it. If the length of the year is wrong by even a few minutes, the calendar will ***drift*** by days after a few centuries.

HISTORY NOTE: CALENDAR REFORM

The Julian calendar used in Europe assumed a year of ***365.25 days***, about ***11 minutes longer*** than the true tropical year. By the 16th century CE, that calendar had drifted by about ***10 days***.

In ***1582 CE***, the ***Gregorian*** calendar was introduced to correct it. This reform depended on ***an accurate measure of the length of the year*** — a field advanced by astronomers such as al-Battani (Britannica: Gregorian calendar).

THE HIJRI CALENDAR

The Hijri calendar is based on ***the moon***, not the sun, so it does not need corrections like a solar calendar. But astronomy is still needed to ***anticipate the new crescent*** and ***convert dates*** between the Hijri and Gregorian calendars.

LESSON

Small errors left uncorrected become ***large*** over time. Precision in small things is the basis of ***trust*** in knowledge and in life.

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ECLIPSES: SCIENCE AND SUNNAH

Al-Battani studied ***solar and lunar eclipses*** and made calculations to predict them. He also argued that ***annular solar eclipses*** are possible, because the sun's distance from the earth ***varies*** — an idea that proved correct.

MODERN SCIENCE

A solar eclipse happens when ***the moon is between the sun and the earth***, and a lunar eclipse when ***the earth is between the sun and the moon***. An annular eclipse happens when the moon is far enough away that it does not cover the sun completely (NASA: eclipses).

Muslim astronomers could ***predict*** eclipses by calculation, because Allah set the motions of the heavens by ***fixed laws***. Islam long ago rejected the belief that eclipses are linked to human fate:

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HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 1040

حَدَّثَنَا عَمْرُو بْنُ عَوْنٍ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا خَالِدٌ، عَنْ يُونُسَ، عَنِ الْحَسَنِ، عَنْ أَبِي بَكْرَةَ، قَالَ كُنَّا عِنْدَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم فَانْكَسَفَتِ الشَّمْسُ، فَقَامَ النَّبِيُّ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَجُرُّ رِدَاءَهُ حَتَّى دَخَلَ الْمَسْجِدَ، فَدَخَلْنَا فَصَلَّى بِنَا رَكْعَتَيْنِ، حَتَّى انْجَلَتِ الشَّمْسُ فَقَالَ صلى الله عليه وسلم «إِنَّ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ لاَ يَنْكَسِفَانِ لِمَوْتِ أَحَدٍ، فَإِذَا رَأَيْتُمُوهُمَا فَصَلُّوا، وَادْعُوا، حَتَّى يُكْشَفَ مَا بِكُمْ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Bakrah رضى الله عنه said: We were with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ when the sun was eclipsed. The Prophet ﷺ stood up, dragging his cloak, until he entered the mosque; we entered too, and he led us in two rak'ahs of prayer until the sun became clear. Then he said: **"The sun and the moon are not eclipsed because of anyone's death. When you see them (eclipsed), pray and supplicate until what has befallen you is removed."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Amr ibn 'Awn, from Khalid ibn 'Abdullah, from Yunus ibn 'Ubayd, from al-Hasan al-Basri, from Abu Bakrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Eclipses (Kitab al-Kusuf), Hadith No. 1040.

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:1040

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ corrected a superstition on the day his son Ibrahim died. An eclipse is ***a sign of Allah's power*** that follows His laws — laws that astronomers study and calculate — and the response to it is ***prayer and supplication***.

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ETIQUETTE DURING AN ECLIPSE

According to the Sunnah, during an eclipse Muslims are encouraged to ***perform the eclipse prayer***, ***make supplication***, ***glorify Allah***, ***give charity*** and ***seek forgiveness***. An eclipse is a reminder of ***Allah's power*** and ***the Last Day***, not a sign of bad luck.

With astronomy we can know ***the date and time of an eclipse*** in advance, and prepare to meet it with worship. This is a beautiful union of ***science and Sunnah***.

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ASTRONOMY, NOT ASTROLOGY

In al-Battani's time, ***astronomy*** (*'ilm al-falak*) and ***astrology*** (*'ilm al-nujum*) were often mixed — indeed Kitab al-Zij itself contains chapters on astrology, following the custom of the age. Islam distinguishes the two firmly:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 846

حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ مَسْلَمَةَ، عَنْ مَالِكٍ، عَنْ صَالِحِ بْنِ كَيْسَانَ، عَنْ عُبَيْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عُتْبَةَ بْنِ مَسْعُودٍ، عَنْ زَيْدِ بْنِ خَالِدٍ الْجُهَنِيِّ، أَنَّهُ قَالَ صَلَّى لَنَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم صَلاَةَ الصُّبْحِ بِالْحُدَيْبِيَةِ عَلَى إِثْرِ سَمَاءٍ كَانَتْ مِنَ اللَّيْلَةِ، فَلَمَّا انْصَرَفَ أَقْبَلَ عَلَى النَّاسِ فَقَالَ «هَلْ تَدْرُونَ مَاذَا قَالَ رَبُّكُمْ». قَالُوا اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَعْلَمُ. قَالَ «أَصْبَحَ مِنْ عِبَادِي مُؤْمِنٌ بِي وَكَافِرٌ، فَأَمَّا مَنْ قَالَ مُطِرْنَا بِفَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَرَحْمَتِهِ فَذَلِكَ مُؤْمِنٌ بِي وَكَافِرٌ بِالْكَوْكَبِ، وَأَمَّا مَنْ قَالَ بِنَوْءِ كَذَا وَكَذَا فَذَلِكَ كَافِرٌ بِي وَمُؤْمِنٌ بِالْكَوْكَبِ».

TRANSLATION:

Zayd ibn Khalid al-Juhani رضى الله عنه said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ led us in the Fajr prayer at al-Hudaybiyah after rain had fallen during the night. When he finished, he faced the people and said: "Do you know what your Lord has said?" They said: "Allah and His Messenger know best." He said: **"(Allah said:) This morning some of My servants have become believers in Me and some disbelievers. Whoever says, 'We have been given rain by the bounty and mercy of Allah,' believes in Me and disbelieves in the stars. Whoever says, '(We have been given rain) by such-and-such a star,' disbelieves in Me and believes in the stars."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Abdullah ibn Maslamah, from Imam Malik, from Salih ibn Kaysan, from 'Ubaydullah ibn 'Abdullah ibn 'Utbah ibn Mas'ud, from Zayd ibn Khalid al-Juhani رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Call to Prayer (Kitab al-Adhan), Hadith No. 846; also narrated by Muslim (No. 71).

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:846

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Asking a fortune-teller about one's fate is also strictly forbidden:

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2230

حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ الْمُثَنَّى الْعَنَزِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى، - يَعْنِي ابْنَ سَعِيدٍ - عَنْ عُبَيْدِ اللَّهِ، عَنْ نَافِعٍ، عَنْ صَفِيَّةَ، عَنْ بَعْضِ أَزْوَاجِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «مَنْ أَتَى عَرَّافًا فَسَأَلَهُ عَنْ شَىْءٍ لَمْ تُقْبَلْ لَهُ صَلاَةٌ أَرْبَعِينَ لَيْلَةً».

TRANSLATION:

One of the wives of the Prophet رضى الله عنهن narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said: **"Whoever goes to a fortune-teller ('arraf) and asks him about anything, his prayer will not be accepted for forty nights."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Muhammad ibn al-Muthanna al-'Anazi, from Yahya ibn Sa'id al-Qattan, from 'Ubaydullah ibn 'Umar, from Nafi', from Safiyyah bint Abi 'Ubayd, from one of the wives of the Prophet ﷺ رضى الله عنهن.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Greetings (Kitab as-Salam), Hadith No. 2230.

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

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2230

LESSONS FROM THESE HADITH

Studying the movement of the stars for ***time, direction and the calendar*** is beneficial knowledge. Attributing ***rain, provision or fate*** to the stars is shirk. We take al-Battani's ***astronomy***, and leave the ***astrology*** mixed with it.

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ASTRONOMY IN WORSHIP: PRAYER TIMES

Astronomy is very useful for ***worship***. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ explained the prayer times by ***the position of the sun and the light of the sky***:

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 612

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو غَسَّانَ الْمِسْمَعِيُّ، وَمُحَمَّدُ بْنُ الْمُثَنَّى، قَالاَ حَدَّثَنَا مُعَاذٌ، - وَهُوَ ابْنُ هِشَامٍ - حَدَّثَنِي أَبِي، عَنْ قَتَادَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي أَيُّوبَ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو، أَنَّ نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «إِذَا صَلَّيْتُمُ الْفَجْرَ فَإِنَّهُ وَقْتٌ إِلَى أَنْ يَطْلُعَ قَرْنُ الشَّمْسِ الأَوَّلُ ثُمَّ إِذَا صَلَّيْتُمُ الظُّهْرَ فَإِنَّهُ وَقْتٌ إِلَى أَنْ يَحْضُرَ الْعَصْرُ فَإِذَا صَلَّيْتُمُ الْعَصْرَ فَإِنَّهُ وَقْتٌ إِلَى أَنْ تَصْفَرَّ الشَّمْسُ فَإِذَا صَلَّيْتُمُ الْمَغْرِبَ فَإِنَّهُ وَقْتٌ إِلَى أَنْ يَسْقُطَ الشَّفَقُ فَإِذَا صَلَّيْتُمُ الْعِشَاءَ فَإِنَّهُ وَقْتٌ إِلَى نِصْفِ اللَّيْلِ».

TRANSLATION:

‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr رضى الله عنهما reported that the Prophet of Allah ﷺ said: **“When you pray Fajr, its time lasts until the first edge of the sun rises. When you pray Zuhr, its time lasts until ‘Asr comes. When you pray ‘Asr, its time lasts until the sun turns yellow. When you pray Maghrib, its time lasts until the twilight disappears. When you pray ‘Isha’, its time lasts until half the night.”**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Abu Ghassan al-Misma‘i and Muhammad ibn al-Muthanna, from Mu‘adh (ibn Hisham), from his father (Hisham ad-Dastuwa’i), from Qatadah, from Abu Ayyub (al-Maraghi), from ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Mosques and Places of Prayer, Hadith No. 612.

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

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:612a

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Each prayer time is linked to ***a phenomenon of the sky***: sunrise, the sun passing its zenith, the sun turning yellow, and the disappearance of twilight. Astronomers such as al-Battani provided ***tables and calculations*** that let these times be determined precisely for every place and every day.

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PRAYER TIMES TODAY

Modern prayer timetables are calculated from ***the angle of the sun below the horizon*** for Fajr and ‘Isha’, and from shadow length for ‘Asr. These calculations continue the ***spherical trigonometry*** developed by Muslim astronomers.

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ASTRONOMY IN WORSHIP: THE NEW CRESCENT

The start of Ramadan and Shawwal is determined by ***sighting the new crescent***. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 1909 (MUTTAFAQ 'ALAYH)

حَدَّثَنَا آدَمُ، حَدَّثَنَا شُعْبَةُ، حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ زِيَادٍ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ أَبَا هُرَيْرَةَ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ يَقُولُ قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صلى الله عليه وسلم أَوْ قَالَ قَالَ أَبُو الْقَاسِمِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «صُومُوا لِرُؤْيَتِهِ، وَأَفْطِرُوا لِرُؤْيَتِهِ، فَإِنْ غُبِّيَ عَلَيْكُمْ فَأَكْمِلُوا عِدَّةَ شَعْبَانَ ثَلاَثِينَ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه said: The Prophet ﷺ — or Abu al-Qasim ﷺ — said: **"Fast when you see it (the new crescent), and break your fast when you see it. If it is hidden from you, complete the count of Sha'ban as thirty days."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Adam (ibn Abi Iyas), from Shu'bah, from Muhammad ibn Ziyad, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Fasting, Hadith No. 1909. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 1081).

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:1909

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

The Shari'ah sets a method that is ***easy for all***: sighting the crescent, or completing 30 days. Astronomy helps by ***anticipating*** the position and visibility of the crescent, so that sighting is done at the right place and time.

VISIBILITY CRITERIA

Today, countries in Southeast Asia use ***crescent visibility criteria*** that combine ***sighting (ru'yah)*** with ***calculation (hisab)*** — for example the altitude of the crescent and its angular distance from the sun. This is a union of the Sunnah with the astronomy inherited from scholars such as al-Battani.

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HONEST DATA: DARING TO CORRECT PTOLEMY

In al-Battani's time, ***Ptolemy*** was a highly respected authority in astronomy. Yet al-Battani was not afraid to ***correct*** Ptolemy's values when his observations showed otherwise — the length of the year, precession and the position of the apogee.

This courage was based on ***scientific honesty***: data must be reported as it is, even when it contradicts a great figure. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 6094

حَدَّثَنَا عُثْمَانُ بْنُ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ، حَدَّثَنَا جَرِيرٌ، عَنْ مَنْصُورٍ، عَنْ أَبِي وَائِلٍ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «إِنَّ الصِّدْقَ يَهْدِي إِلَى الْبِرِّ، وَإِنَّ الْبِرَّ يَهْدِي إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ، وَإِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَيَصْدُقُ حَتَّى يَكُونَ صِدِّيقًا، وَإِنَّ الْكَذِبَ يَهْدِي إِلَى الْفُجُورِ، وَإِنَّ الْفُجُورَ يَهْدِي إِلَى النَّارِ، وَإِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَيَكْذِبُ، حَتَّى يُكْتَبَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ كَذَّابًا».

TRANSLATION:

'Abdullah ibn Mas'ud رضى الله عنه narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said: **"Truthfulness leads to righteousness, and righteousness leads to Paradise.** A man keeps telling the truth until he becomes a truthful person (siddiq). Lying leads to wickedness, and wickedness leads to the Fire. A man keeps lying until he is written before Allah as a liar."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Uthman ibn Abi Shaybah, from Jarir ibn 'Abd al-Hamid, from Mansur ibn al-Mu'tamir, from Abu Wa'il Shaqiq ibn Salamah, from 'Abdullah ibn Mas'ud رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Manners (Kitab al-Adab), Hadith No. 6094; also narrated by Muslim (No. 2607).

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:6094

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Truthfulness leads to goodness, and in science it leads to ***the truth***. A scientist who falsifies data, even slightly, damages knowledge and deceives people. Al-Battani respected Ptolemy, but ***respected the truth more***.

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HONESTY IN SCIENCE TODAY

Modern science protects honesty through ***peer review***, ***replication*** of experiments and ***open data***. These practices continue the spirit of al-Battani, who recorded his observations clearly so that others could check them.

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"ALBATEGNIUS" IN EUROPE

HISTORY NOTE: FROM AL-RAQQA TO COPERNICUS

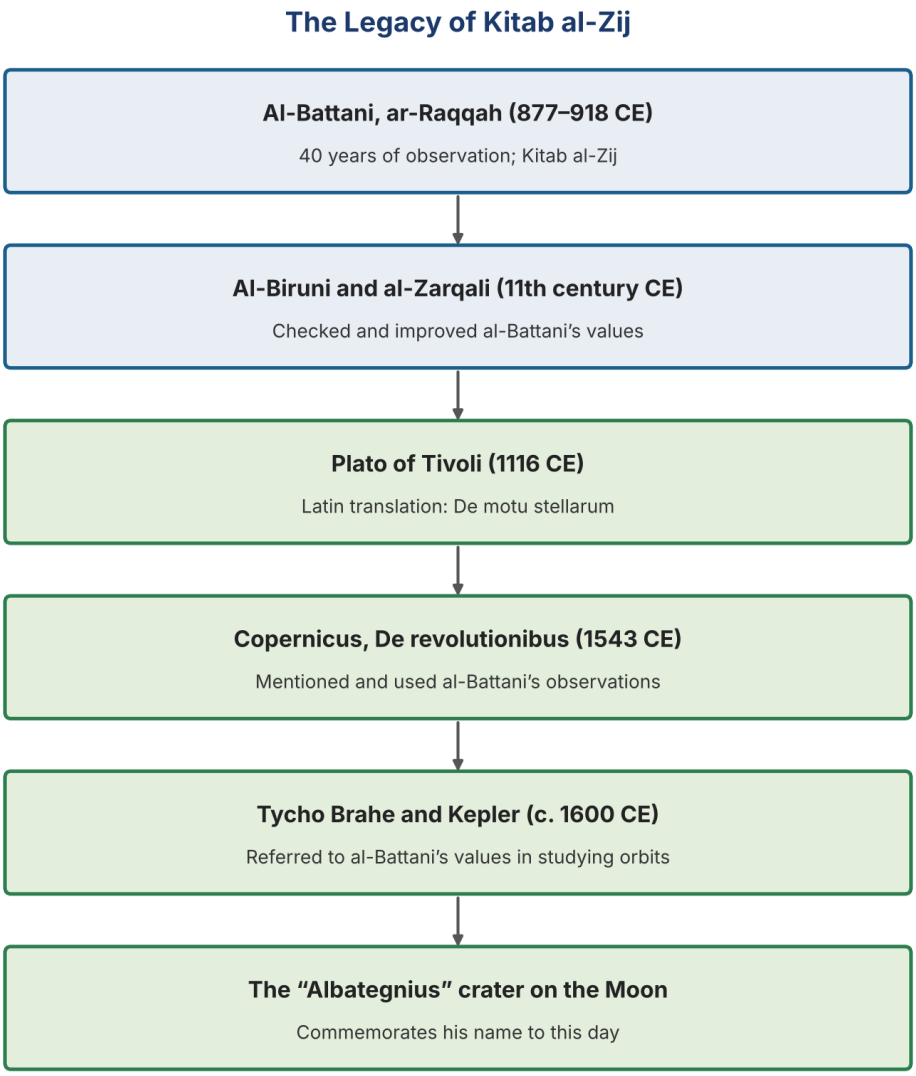
In ***1116 CE***, Kitab al-Zij was translated into Latin by ***Plato of Tivoli*** as *De motu stellarum* (On the Motion of the Stars), and reprinted in 1537 and 1645. In Europe, al-Battani was known as ***"Albategnius"***.

The astronomer ***Nicolaus Copernicus*** mentioned al-Battani by name in his book ***De revolutionibus*** (1543). Today, the ***Albategnius crater*** on the moon commemorates his name.

REFLECTION

Observations made patiently on a rooftop in al-Raqqa reached the hands of Copernicus six hundred years later. Accurate knowledge ***does not grow old***.

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Simplified diagram. Blue = Muslim world; green = Europe.

Figure 4: The legacy of Kitab al-Zij.

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AL-BATTANI'S HEIRS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

Al-Battani's observations became the foundation for generations of later Muslim astronomers, who ***checked and improved*** them.

HISTORY NOTE: THE SUCCESSORS

Abu al-Rayhan al-Biruni (d. c. 1048 CE) praised al-Battani's precision and compared his values with his own observations.

Al-Zarqali (Arzachel, d. 1100 CE) in Toledo, Andalusia, invented a universal astrolabe and compiled the ***Toledan Tables***, which used many of al-Battani's methods.

In the 15th century CE, ***Ulugh Beg*** in Samarkand built a great observatory and compiled a highly accurate star catalogue, continuing the tradition of careful observation.

LESSON

Knowledge is ***an inherited trust***. Each generation checks the work of the one before — not to tear it down, but to ***perfect it***.

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ASTRONOMY IN MALAYSIA TODAY

The tradition of astronomy lives on in Malaysia. Religious authorities use ***observatories and astronomical calculation*** to determine prayer times, the qiblah and the start of Hijri months. Facilities such as the ***al-Khawarizmi Astronomy Complex*** in Melaka serve as places for ***crescent sighting*** and public astronomy education.

The younger generation can continue al-Battani's legacy by studying ***astronomy, mathematics and physics***, and using them to ***serve worship and society***.

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ESTABLISHED REPORTS AND POPULAR STORIES

The table below separates what is established from what needs checking about al-Battani.

STORIES AND THEIR STATUS

POPULAR STATEMENT	STATUS
Al-Battani measured the tropical year as 365 days 5 hours 46 minutes 24 seconds.	Established in Kitab al-Zij.
Al-Battani observed at al-Raqqa from 877 to 918 CE.	Established in al-Fihrist.
Al-Battani used a telescope.	Incorrect. The telescope was invented in the early 17th century CE; he used angle-measuring instruments and sighting tubes.
Al-Battani was a star-worshipper (Sabian).	Incorrect. His family came from the Sabians, but he was a Muslim.
Copernicus referred to al-Battani.	Established. His name appears in De revolutionibus.
Al-Battani invented trigonometry.	Exaggerated. Trigonometry developed from Greek and Indian sources; he advanced its use in astronomy.
Al-Battani held that annular solar eclipses can occur.	Established in studies of the history of astronomy; the idea proved correct.

REFLECTION — HONOUR WITHOUT EXAGGERATION

The precision of al-Battani's observations is impressive enough without adding claims that are not established.

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LESSONS AND CONCLUSION

LESSONS FROM THIS EBOOK

First: The stars are guides, not decrees of fate (6:97).

Second: The sun and moon run by a decree that can be calculated (36:38–40).

Third: Reflecting on the sky is a mark of people of understanding (3:190–191).

Fourth: Consistent deeds are beloved to Allah — perseverance produces accurate knowledge (Sahih al-Bukhari 6464).

Fifth: Eclipses have no link to human fate (Sahih al-Bukhari 1040).

Sixth: Take astronomy, leave astrology (Sahih al-Bukhari 846; Sahih Muslim 2230).

Seventh: Astronomy serves worship — prayer times and the new crescent (Sahih Muslim 612; Sahih al-Bukhari 1909).

Eighth: Simple instruments in diligent hands can produce extraordinary knowledge.

Ninth: Knowledge is an inherited trust, perfected by each generation.

Tenth: Be honest with data, even when it contradicts a great figure (Sahih al-Bukhari 6094).

Eleventh: The sky is ordered without flaw — return your gaze and reflect (67:3; 21:33).

CONCLUSION

Al-Battani died in 929 CE, but his numbers continued to be consulted for centuries. The next book of **Tracing the Scholars of Islam**, in sha Allah, will tell the story of ***Ibn Sahl***, the optician who described the law of refraction. Wallahu a'lam.

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GLOSSARY AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

GLOSSARY

TERM	MEANING
Zij	A book of astronomical tables for calculating the positions of the sun, moon and planets.
Tropical year	The period from one spring equinox to the next.
Ecliptic	The apparent path of the sun across the sky over the year.
Precession	The slow turning of the earth's axis, completing one cycle in about 26,000 years.
Sine	A trigonometric function relating an angle to a ratio of the sides of a triangle.
Gnomon	An upright stick whose shadow is used to measure time and the sun's altitude.
Shafaq (twilight)	The red glow on the western horizon after sunset; a marker for Maghrib and 'Isha'.
Astrology	Fortune-telling from the stars; forbidden in Islam.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between astronomy and astrology? Why does Islam praise the first and forbid the second?

2. What was the secret of al-Battani's precision even without a telescope?

3. How can Sahih al-Bukhari 6464 be practised in your daily studies?

4. How does astronomy help determine prayer times and the start of Ramadan?

5. Why is it important to know that eclipses can be predicted by calculation?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Plant a stick (gnomon) in an open area. Mark the tip of its shadow every hour from morning to afternoon. When is the shadow shortest? How does this relate to the time of Zuhr?

Activity 2: Watch the shape of the moon every night for two weeks and draw its phases. Compare with verse 36:39.

Activity 3: Use a sky-map app on a phone to identify three bright stars at night. Discuss how early sailors used the stars as guides (6:97).

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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 رضي 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 رضي 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."

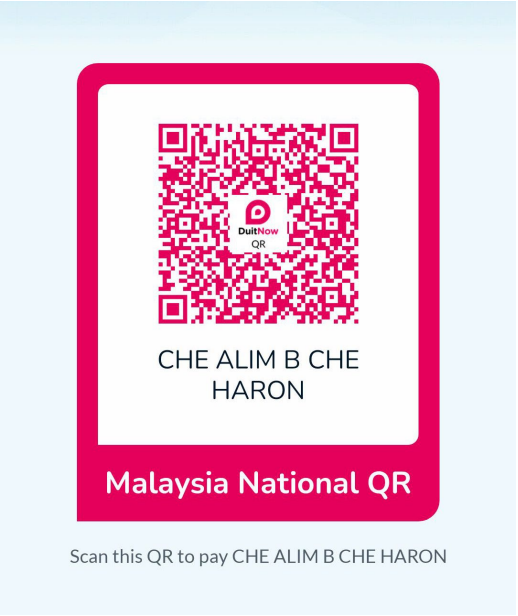
CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضي الله عنه .

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GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

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

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