

Avicenna

"Prince of Physicians" Establishing early works of modern medicine in the 10-11th century Islamic World



"I [prefer] a short life with width to a narrow one with length"

Avicenna, whose real name was Ibn Sina, was a hardworking and honest multidimensional thinker who exposed himself to many fields of study. He was not afraid to be a legendary physician, write and compose years of research, philosophize, and learn for all of his life.

Avicenna began studying medicine when he was 16; curing the Sultan of Buckhara when he fell ill, which granted him access to the royal Samanid library where he completed much of his extended research. He was able to develop cures for a variety of ailments, and is known for saying that "there are no incurable diseases — only the lack of will. There are no worthless herbs — only the lack of knowledge". Avicenna also lived by his teachings. When he was 57 he contracted colic and worked hard to save his own life. Little did he know his efforts were in vain, he was poisoned by his compaions and passed away after much suffering in the month of Ramadhan.

Having memorized the entire Quran at a young age, Avicenna used his theology and his intellect to compose multiple groundbreaking works, including the The Canon of Medicine and the Book of the Cure, the latter being a vast encyclopedia incorporating philosophical and scientific thought.

In the Canon of Medicine, Avicenna completely documented the anatomy of the eye, and was even able to accurately predict that tuberculosis was contagious, despite the lack of knowledge during his time.

Hundreds of years later, Europeans seeing his work named him the "Prince of Physicians"; his work still being used today. This is the kind of multifaceted scientific legacy everyone should dream of leaving behind.



The Canon of Medicine - Library of Congress

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