

What the Modern World owes to Muslim Civilization.

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As the final days of the R.I.S convention that was held in Los Angeles concluded last week, it was met with a small pocket of protesters outside who were attempting to disrupt what was a calm and peaceful event. One of the protesters said that it was a duty for her 'true religion' to stand up against the forces of the devil. As a Muslim mother with her children were walking by the protester shouted: "Go to Hell with your Kids"...

It is sad and cumbersome to analyze situations like this, yet it brings us to the common point of today: The majority of today's everyday citizens are not aware of the contributions to the modern world that was laid by the foundations of Muslim Civilization while it was in its Golden Era and beyond. And if there are some scholars who do know, many have opted out for Cultural Amnesia in an era where disrespecting Muslims is in fashion and commonplace.

However even with this, the Art and Science exhibit called: **1001 Inventions** has been challenging the perceptions about Muslim contributions to society and is calling the modern thinker to at least be aware of the **contributions of Muslims** to the world at large regardless of one's Theological standpoint. The California Science Center of Los Angeles Opened the exhibit on May 27th and it will run until December 31st, 2011. As you walk into the exhibit you are greeted by a welcoming video with none other than Ben Kingsley as he talks with some school children who are doing a research paper on the so called "Dark Ages"; reminding them that this era was really called the **Golden Age** in many other parts of the world.

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To get a full understanding of just how Muslims contributed to the modern world one would have to get a start with going to see the exhibit and then probably spend their remaining lifetimes on getting a full grasp on this. Of course it would be remiss to mention all of the great Islamic reference points to the contribution to the modern world however a few shall be highlighted. The exhibit brought truth and clarity to fact that Abbas Ibn Firnas made an attempt at human flight long before the Wright brothers. It also clarified the fact that Maeriam al Astulabi perfected the system of the Astrolabe; one may ask why this is important and let's just say that without it, one may not even have a GPS in their phone or GPS technology at all. And in conclusion, Al Jazari who was responsible for the crank shaft pump, yes, the foundational system that powered locomotive trains and the cars that we drive was discussed and asked its audience to give credit where credit is due.

To the seemingly oblivious protester who sought to disrupt the R.I.S, it must be asked of her, where did the technology that is found in your vehicle; the vehicle that she most likely drove to the convention to protest come from? Once one begins to look deeper it must be recognized that the modern world owes the humility of **Acknowledgement** for without them, the modern world would not even have the many amenities as it has today; Think Deeper. With Love, As-Salaam Alaykum.

