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## **1001 Nights –v– 1001 Inventions: Muslim Scientific Heritage in our World**

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Public perception is that after the fall of the Roman Empire there was an extraordinary dark period of about 1000 years called the “Dark Ages”. This is a misnomer, for in the thousand years after 600 CE there was an extraordinary amount of scientific activity that radiated from Baghdad and along a glittering crescent through North Africa and into Spain and Southern Italy. For many years, people associated Baghdad with stories such as the 1001 nights and there was no information either in the school curriculum or in the media about the enormous number of inventions and innovations from that period that still affect our lives today.

This presentation will take the audience on a journey, and show them some of these inventions, which we currently find or use, in the **home, school, hospital, market, town, world and universe.**

The presentation will allude to how the “1001inventions” project took up the challenge of using edutainment techniques to transfer historical information into an interactive touring exhibition, accompanied by a book, a teachers’ pack, a website [www.1001inventions.com](http://www.1001inventions.com), a set of educational posters and a series of lectures.

The question raised by this project is how would popularising such knowledge contribute to social cohesion in the UK and to world peace.