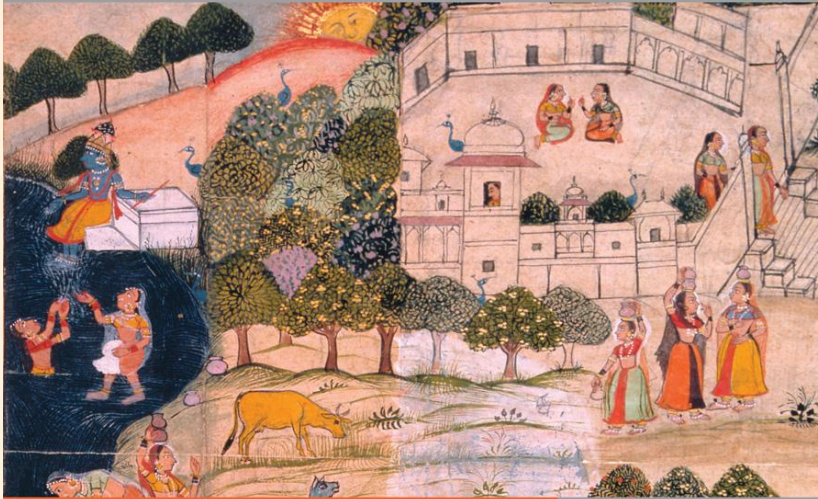


PHILIP J. ADLER / RANDALL L. POWELS

WORLD CIVILIZATIONS



Seventh Edition

Chapter 16

Mature Islamic Civilization and the First Global Civilization

750 Abbasid caliphate founded in Baghdad

786–809 Harun al-Rashid

1055 Seljuk Turks take power

1258 Mongols plunder Baghdad



The Abbasid Caliphate

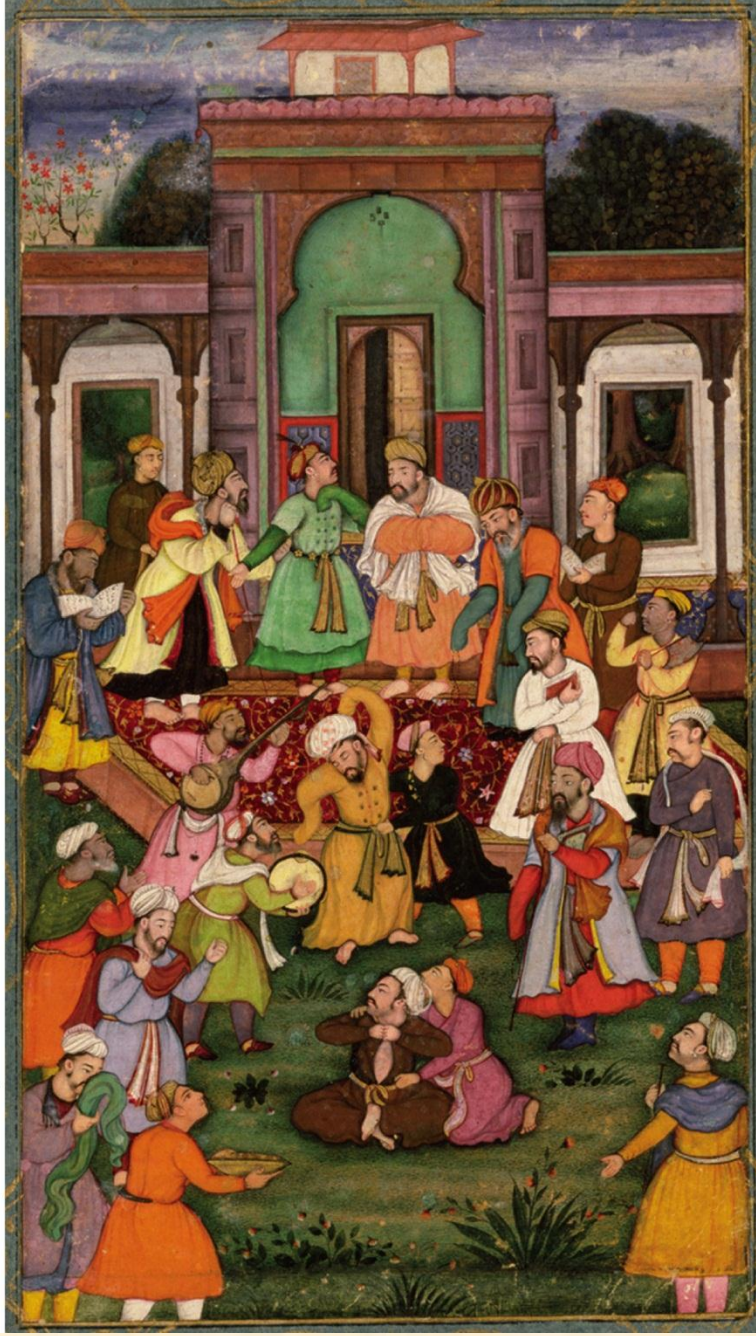
- Baghdad as center of trade, culture and manufacturing
 - Educational establishments
- Scholars (ulama) developed sacred law (Sharia) based on:
 - Qur'an
 - Sunna: example of the prophet
- State Bureaucracy
 - *Diwan* central government
 - Vizier or prime minister
 - *Amir* provincial governor
 - qadis judges
- Slave soldiers



Further Development of Islamic Religious Thought

- Ulama had more authority than caliphs on religious and legal matters
- By 10th century scholars held that interpretation of the shariah was now complete
- Sufism
 - Sufis were mystics, believed in personal path to God
 - Ecstatic practices
 - Relationship with ulamas often strained, sometimes bloody
 - Al-Ghazzali, “Renewer of Islam”, brought about fragile but lasting truce
 - Tariqas religious associations
 - Role in the spread of Islam

Group of Whirling Dervishes, from the Large Clive Album, c.1595 (opaque w/c with gold on paper), Mughal School, (16th century)/Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK/The Stapleton Collection/The Bridgeman Art Library



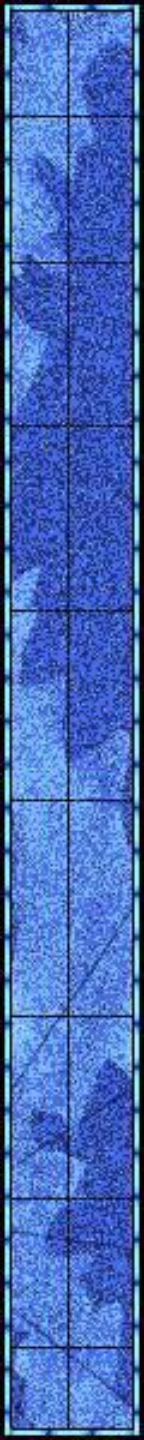


Literature and Natural Sciences

- Arabic language became source of unification
 - Qu'ran could only be written in Arabic
 - Every educated Muslim learned it
 - Acquired paper from Chinese
 - Factory in Baghdad as early as 793 CE
- University was also Muslim creation
 - Al Azhar in Egypt



Collection Dagli Orti/The Art Archive/Alamy



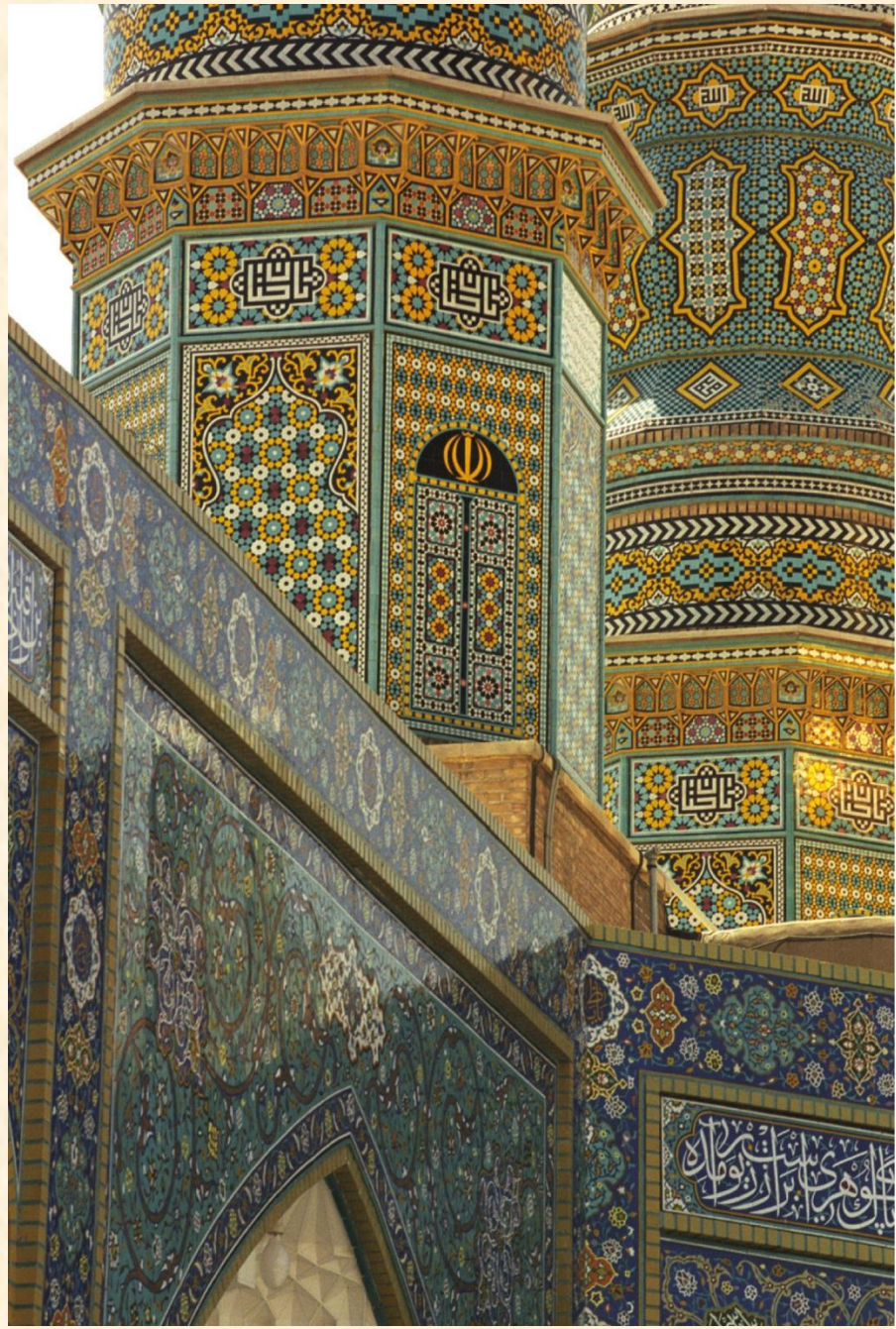
Natural Sciences

- Caliphs patronize translation of Greek and Sanskrit Greek and Sanskrit Works into Arabic
- Excelled in Medicine, Geography, Optics
- Astronomy and Astrology
- Mathematics
 - Arabic numbers
 - Concepts of Algebra
 - Decimal system



Arts in the Muslim World

- Taboo against depicting human form discouraged sculpture
 - Some miniature painting
- Intricate, geometrically based format for visual arts
- Architecture – beautiful forms, great skill
- Formal gardens and reflecting pools
- Calligraphy was special strength
- Literature
 - Growing popularity of Persian Literature, 11th century
 - *Shahnama* by Firdawsi
 - 1001 Arabian Nights



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Marriage and Status of Women

- Position of women declines as Muslim adopt practice of keeping women veiled and in seclusion
- Number of wives limited to four, but no limit on slave concubines
- Slavery was common
 - Most households had slaves in home and shop
 - Shariah did not allow enslavement of Muslims
- Elite women more restricted than lower-class women

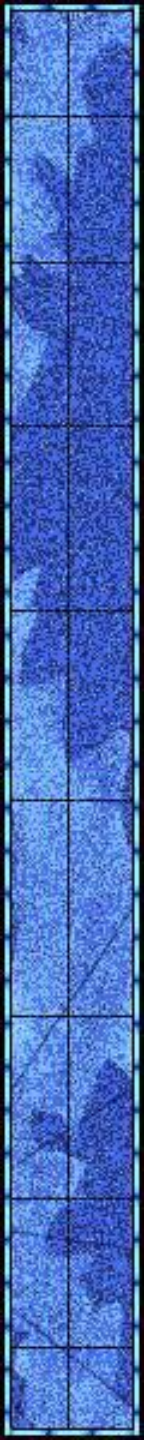


سورة البقرة من القرآن الكريم

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
قُرْآنَ الْكِتَابِ مِنْ اللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَكِيمِ
إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ بِاللَّيْلِ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْغُيُوبِ
اللَّهُ مُخْلِصُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنَ الْكُفْرِ
الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ
الْآخِرِ وَآمَنُوا بِأُولِي
الْأَرْحَامِ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ
وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَآمَنُوا بِأُولِي

Decline of the Abbasids

- During 800's lost almost all African, Arabian possessions
- Growing reliance on Turkish slave armies
- Seljuk Turks invade Middle East, Asia Minor 1000 CE
 - Caliph becomes a figurehead
 - Empire fragmented into small principalities
- Chingis Khan and the Mongols
 - Nomadic horse-based people from central Asia
 - Conquered most of central Asia, Middle East
 - His successor conquered Russia, about half of Europe
 - Mongols took Baghdad (1258), ended Abbasid caliphate



The First “World” Civilization, 632-1500 CE

- Islamic civilization flourished 900 and 1200
- Islam most lavish and innovative civilization, rivaled only by China and India
- Extensive commercial and intellectual contacts allows Islam to become a world religion
- Honest merchants highly honored
- Trade routes and Muslim communities extended throughout the known world



الفَرَانُ شَمْرٌ وَرَبْعٌ سَاطِئٌ بِلَاهَا وَرَخَائِفٌ جَلَامَاهَا وَقَالَ اِرْكَبُوا فِيهَا بِسْمِ اللَّهِ مُجْرَاهَا
وَمِنْ سَاهَاتِهَا تَمْتَمُ نَفْسُ الْمَغْرِبِيِّنَ أَوْ عِبَادِ اللَّهِ لِلْمَكْرَمِينَ وَقَالَ اِمَّا اِنَّا



Indian Ocean
Dhow c.
1000–1500 C.E.
Ibn Battuta's ship?

Arne Hodallic/Corbis Art/Corbis



*Arab Dhow from the
Present*

Marion Kaplan/Alamy