Ishaq bin Ali al-Rohawi: Pioneer in Medical Ethics

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Ethics is the foundation of all healthy developments and human progress in all spheres. Truth is life, and lie is death said the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. When the world was in dark ages the Islamic world had glittering civilization and there was a big bang in all fields of science and humanities. The human uplift occurred at jet speed and was complete and comprehensive. Almost all modern sciences were founded in that era. It's no exaggeration although it may seem so. A glance at Wikipedia will give you the names of hundreds of great scientists in that era. Islam instilled highest moral and ethical values as well as intense love for research with utmost honesty. Few people know that Khalifa Waleed predecessor of Khalifa Haroon Rashid had pioneered the medical licensing. Khalifa himself used to preside over the board of highly competent physicians of that time in competence examination of the clinicians before granting them license to practice. When Muslims downfall began in Spain, the medical licensing was taken over by the Italians**.**

On subject of ethics Ishāq bin Ali al-Rohawi (Arabic: إسحاق بن علي الرهاوي) was considered the pioneer and his book "*Ethics of the Physician*" on medical ethics is considered as the very first book on the subject. He was a 9thcentaury Muslim physician. IshaqRohawi was one of the physicist of the school of Roha, one of the eminent schools during the history of Islamic philosophy.[1]

Ibn Abi Osayba in Oyun, refers to this famous book. But it seems that he lived during the third century Lunar Hijrah (9thcentuary). Ibn Abi Osayba known Ishaq as one who is skillful in physics of Galen.He insisted that medicine must have belief in God and also some ethical characters like a generous behavior with the patients and good relationship with them.

His *Ethics of the Physician* contains the first documented description of a peer review process, where the notes of a practicing Arab\Muslim physician were reviewed by peers and the physician could face a lawsuit from a maltreated patient if the reviews were negative.[2,3] Although he was claimed to be a Christian based on clumsy ground such as his narration that alcohol may have some benefits, ignoring his continuing statement that alcohol's harms far exceed its benefits. This is exactly what has been told by Allah ta'lahin Quran.[4]A modern historian reached to the conclusion that he was a Muslim based on his introduction as an Islamic prayer, usage of several Islamic Names of God, and most importantly The Six Axioms of Faith .[5,6]

It's painful to see how our society has been degraded and degenerated by losing the ethical values. Immoral and corrupt practices lead to grave tragedies and high mortality and morbidity in the hospitals as well as in the society. No book instills the high ethics and morality than glorious Quran and the Sunnah of the final Prophet of Allah ﷺ . Quran not only provides guidelines but also gives courage, strength and tranquility to implement these values even by sacrificing one's own interests at times These teachings need to be effectively incorporated in the medical curricula

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