

THE GOLDEN AGE OF ISLAM AND THE WEST

Throughout the Golden Age of Islam, the path of spreading knowledge and science towards Europe was realized mainly by the following factors:

1. The Kingdom of Sicily, headed by Frederick the Great.
2. Expanding Muslim influence to the Pyrenees, Andalusia.
3. Increasingly, European kings and popes referred to Muslim physicians, who were more skilled than European physicians.
4. Crusades
5. Translations of scientific books, from Arabic into English language.

These sciences were in fields such as: mathematics, medicine, astronomy, physics, chemistry, geography, philosophy, literature and industry.

Within the arrival of many Arab philosophers, scholars and scientists in the western part of medieval Europe, many schools began to open there so called “latin averroism”, which were philosophical schools based on the application of the works of the eminent Arab philosopher Ibn Ruzhd, whom westerners called Averroes, and was the most notable commentator of the works of Aristotle. Ibn Ruzhd (1126 - 1198) was a prominent figure not only in philosophy but also in theology, medicine, astronomy, physics, Islamic jurisprudence, law and linguistics.

In fact, they were generally disciples, students and followers of Ibn Sina, Al-Farab, Ibn Ruzhd and Ibn Arab. These philosophers, scientists, jurists and theologians lectured and translated all the works of the Greek classics into Arabic and Persian language.

Many scholars and theologians from the Islamic world taught in the universities of the main urban centers of Europe. They preached and translated classical Greek works and rational Arabic philosophy. The philosophy of Augustine Neoplatonism and the scholastic teachings of medieval theology began to fade in many European schools and universities.

This situation continued at least until the 15th century, when the balances began to be reversed.