

Islamic Science

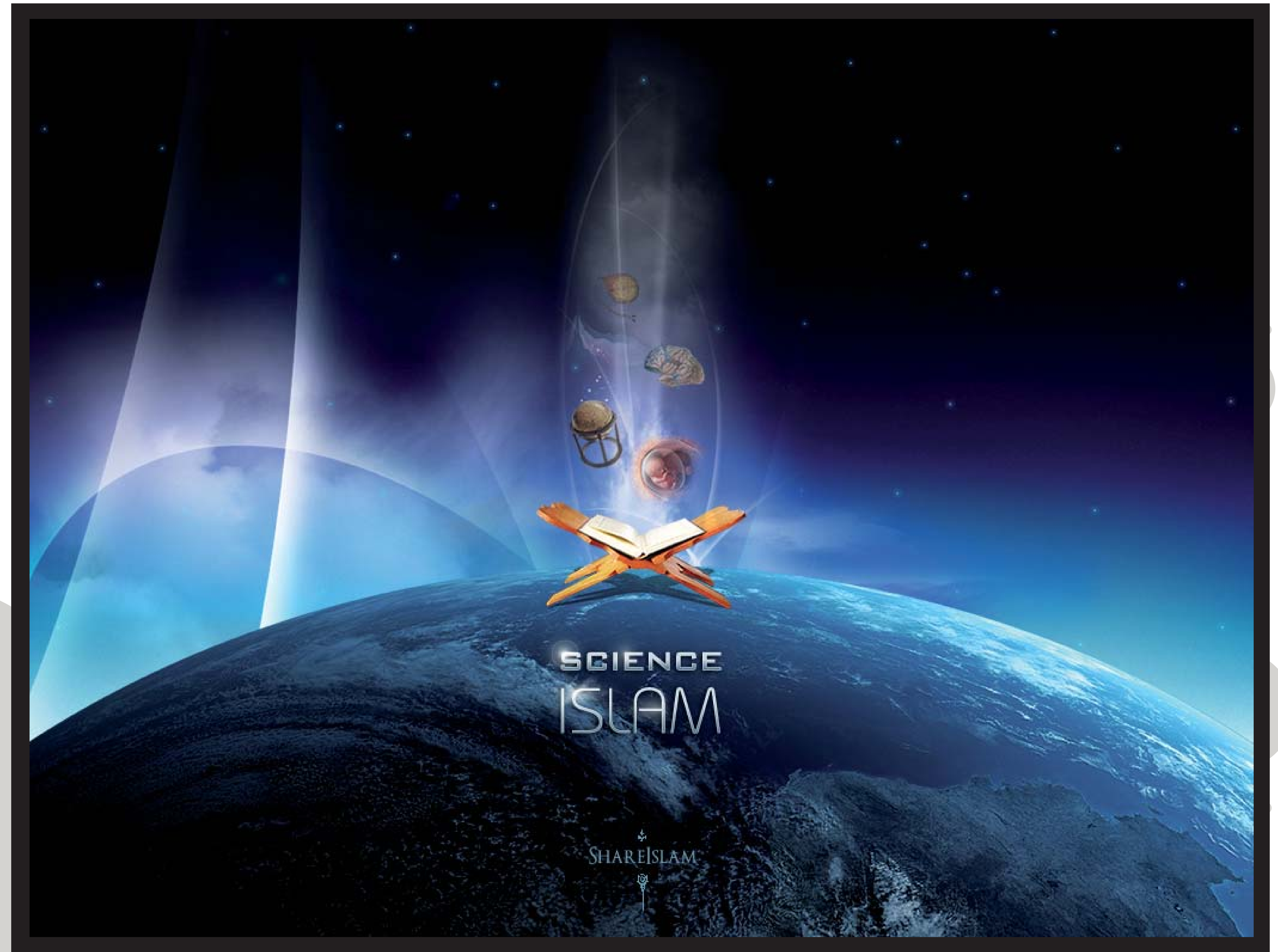
What makes science from the golden ages of Islam, Islamic? What makes a scientist? There is no other religion that goes so well with science as Islam. There is also no other religion, once established, that propagates and improves science and technology for the betterment of all mankind.

The Quran instructs its followers to read and to learn. To understand the natural world around us and improve the lives of all people. It is in this spirit that the first objective discussions about life and nature took place in the mosques during the 1st century after Hijra (AH) or 7th century CE (Common Era). Knowledge was gathered from across the world; from Romans, Greeks and Byzantines in Europe, Chinese, Persians and Indians in Asia and from the Egyptians and Nubians in Africa. This knowledge was translated, critically examined and improved. In many instances old knowledge that was found to be faulty or baseless and were disregarded. New theories based on reason and experimentation were developed.

The most important aspect of Islamic Science is that researchers were not allowed to conduct research that violated Islamic principles. No harm should come to people, freedom of information, sincerity of one's findings, and recognition of all sources. All knowledge & research should be used to improve humanity. There were no patents and owners of knowledge. All truth and knowledge was derived from Allah and everyone should have access to these.

The first modern scientist in the world was Jabir ibn Hayan(721-803CE), a dedicated Muslim and a voracious learner. He is acknowledged as the father of modern chemistry and the founder of the scientific method. Ibn Hayan developed a method of thinking, doing and writing that is still the core of all scientific studies. He was focussed on experimentation, comparing his findings and then more experimentations. His findings were most often clearly documented and impartial. His writings also contained sources and credited his predecessors and contemporaries that influenced his work. If you have obtained a university degree, it is because you have learned to work via his methods.

Because there were no clearly defined academic disciplines in the 1st and 2nd century AH (7th and 8th century CE) most scholars were also universal scientist or polymaths. Meaning that they were knowledgeable in many subjects: from math and mechanics to writing poems and calligraphy. In the Muslim world these scholars were known as Al-Khemia, "...those who bring change...."



**“Beware of those who would deny you access to information.
For in their hearts they dream themselves your masters.” A. Alibux**