

ISLAMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

CHAPTER 4, SECTION 4

IBN SINA

- Muslim doctor Ibn Sina (who started practicing medicine while he still was a teenager) discovered that many diseases could be spread through the air. This led to the practice of quarantine--keeping sick individuals away from others--as a way of limiting the spread of disease. Among Ibn Sina's other achievements were his exploration of ways of relieving pain, including his insistence on not overmedicating patients, his guidelines for testing the effectiveness of new medicines (what would be known today as clinical trials), his cataloging of more than 750 drugs, and his recognition that a person's physical health is related to his or her emotional condition.



Dome of the Rock



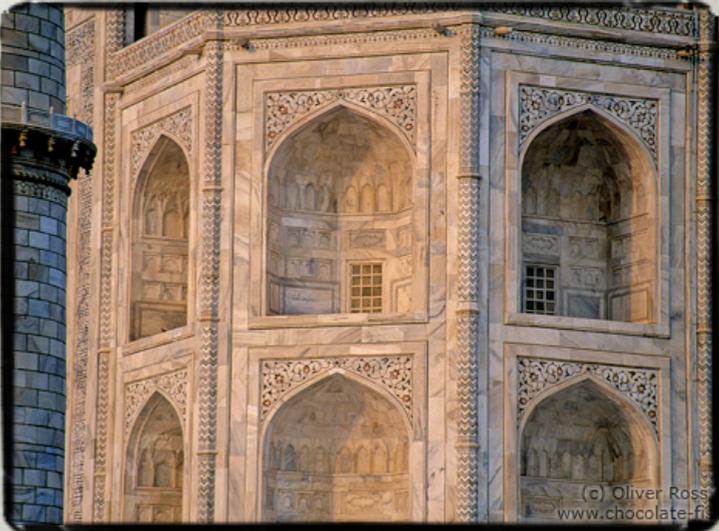
Alhambra



ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE



Taj Mahal



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‘ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES

IN former days there lived in a town of Persia two brothers, one named Kasim, and the other ‘Ali Baba. Their father divided a small inheritance equally between them. Kasim married a rich wife, and became a wealthy merchant. ‘Ali Baba married a woman as poor as himself, and lived by cutting wood and bringing it upon three [donkeys] into the town to sell.

One day, when ‘Ali Baba was in the forest, and had just cut wood enough to load his [donkeys], he saw at a distance a great cloud of dust approaching him. He observed it with attention, and distinguished soon after a body of horsemen, whom he suspected to be robbers. He determined to leave his [donkeys] in order to save himself; so climbed up a large tree, planted on a high rock, the branches of which were thick enough to conceal him, and yet enabled him to see all that passed without being discovered.

The troop, to the number of forty, well mounted and armed, came to the foot of the rock on which the tree stood, and there dismounted. Every man unbridled his horse, tied him to some shrub, and hung about his neck a bag of corn which they carried behind them. Then each took off his saddle-bag, which from its weight seemed to ‘Ali Baba to be full of gold and silver. One, whom he took to be their captain, came under the tree in which he was concealed, and making his way through some shrubs, pronounced the words: “Open, Simsim!” A door opened in the rock; and after he had made all his troop enter before him, he followed them, when the door shut again of itself.

RUMI POETRY

POEM A

“The breezes at dawn have
secrets to tell you
Don't go back to sleep!
You must ask for what you
really want.
Don't go back to sleep!
People are going back and forth
across the doorsill where the
two worlds touch,
The door is round and open
Don't go back to sleep!”

– Rumi

POEM B

“Be empty of worrying.
Think of who created
thought!

Why do you stay in
prison
When the door is so wide
open?”

– Rumi, *The Essential
Rumi*

POEM C

“Sorrow prepares you for joy.
It violently sweeps everything
out of your house, so that
new joy can find space to
enter. It shakes the yellow
leaves from the bough of your
heart, so that fresh, green
leaves can grow in their
place. It pulls up the rotten
roots, so that new roots
hidden beneath have room to
grow. Whatever sorrow
shakes from your heart, far
better things will take their
place.”