

Biruni and his Place in the History of Pharmacy

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Abu al-Reyhan Muhammed b. Ahmad al-Beyruni al-Khwarezmi who is known as Alberuni or Aliboron in the European languages is an important scientist not only in the Islamic World but also in Europe. He was born in Kes in Khwarezm in 973 and died in Gazne in 1051. Beyruni was so well-known a scientist that George Sarton named the century he lived in, that is the 11th century, after his name. Beyruni was a poli-lingual scientist; he knew Arabic, Persian, Greek, Hebrew, Syrian and Hindi. He was interested in a variety of sciences such as mathematics, astronomy, geometry, physics, chemistry, medicine, pharmacy, history, geography, philology, ethnology, religions, lexicography as well as some other scientific branches and produced works on those subjects.

Beyruni wrote around 180 works in total; out of which there were 70 works on astronomy and 20 on mathematics. He prepared an important index on medicine, biology, metals, animals and herbal cures. Unfortunately, only 27 of those books reached our time. Among his well known works are *al-Asar al-Bakiyye an al-Kuruni al-Haliya*, *el-Kanun al-Mes'udi*, *Kitab al-Tahkik ma li'lHind*, *Tahdidü Nihayet al-Emakin*, *Kitab al-Cemahir fi al-Marifet al-Cevahir*, *Nihayet al-Emakin li Tashih-I Mesafet al-Mesakin*, *Kitab al-Saydana fi al-Tıbb*. The Western world began to be interested in Beyruni's works after 1870 and some of his works were fully or partly translated into German and English.

Beyruni who was a distinguished expert with specialties in the treatment of diseases was interested in and studied Ancient Greek and Indian medicine. He was also interested in pharmacy and wrote his final work on pharmacy and medicine, titled *Saydana*, in 1050. In this work, he gave information about how the drugs should have been used, the methods of their preparations, their medical usages and side effects. As he explained each of the drugs, he gave their names in other languages such as in Greek, Persian, Hindi, Arabic and Turkish. Beyruni draw the distinction between pharmacy and medicine in the work above and described pharmacy in detail. The work mentioned was translated from Arabic into Persian in 1229 by Abu Bakr Ali al-Kasani of Fergana. It is currently kept in Manisa Municipal Library with the entry number 1789. One of the valuable Arabic versions of *al-Saydana* written by Dr. Ibrahim Gazanfer in 1927 is found in Bursa Kurshunlu Mosque among the collection of medical works. In this paper, we will provide a systematic analysis of Beyruni's work, *Kitab al-Saydana*, from the point of view of the importance of the work and its writer in pharmacy and will discuss the subject in all its aspects with some of the recipes from the book.