

LETTER TO EDITOR

Comment to “*The Report of Abu Zayd al-Balkhi about the Importance of Jondishapoor Hospital on Masalih al-Abdan wa al-Anfus*”

Dear Editor,

First, we would like to thank the authors of the article published in your prestigious journal with the number of 2022; 11(2): 139-142 to promote the historical literature of Jondishapoor University & Hospital. We found this article when we were carrying out research about the history of Jondishapoor university's scientists. But, when we were examining the article's resources, we noticed an important point about the main source of the article, which we felt it is necessary to inform you about.

The main source of the authors of this article concerning the presentation of new and older documents regarding the existence of Jondishapoor university compared to the time of the writing of the Al-Qifti's (1172-1248, Qift, Egypt) book, is based on the reference to part of the book *Masalih al-Abdan wa al-Anfus* by Abu Zayd al-Balkhi (850-934, Balkh, Iran), which was proofread by Mahmoud Masri (*Masalih al-Abdan wa al-Anfus*, 2005). Abu Zayd al-Balkhi is one of the Muslim encyclopedic scientists of

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the 9th century AD, who, although was not a clinical physician, was very well known in theoretical medicine. (Awaad, and Ali, 2016, p. 90).

The authors of the article refer to page 27 of the proofread version of the book *Masalih al-Abdan wa al-Anfus* to present a report about Jondishapoor university and hospital.

They have also noted that this section has important points about the position of the education and training of doctors during the growth and prosperity of this school.

- This is while the first part of this book up to page 325 is the proofreader's description and explanations regarding the proofreading style, the sources of the book's authorship, and the results of the proofreader's research on the book.

- Mahmoud Masri proofread the text of *Masalih al-Abdan wa al-Anfus* in the second part of this book from pages 329 to 564.

- Therefore, the specified part that refers to Jondishapoor university and the scientists of this university is the result of Mahmoud Masri's research and not the text of Abu Zayd al-Balkhi's *Masalih al-Abdan wa al-Anfus*.

In writing this part about Jondishapoor university, Mahmoud Masri has also used *A Brief History of Arabic Medicine* written by Kamal AlSamarrai in 1948.

On the other hand, we believe that the authors of the article could have used older and more important sources to prove the existence of Jondishapoor university in the 9th century AD.

For example, Ishāq bin Ali al-Rohawi's *Adab al-Tabib* ("Practical Ethics for the Physician"), which was written in the 9th century and is recognized as the first authored text in the field of medical ethics during the Islamic civilization (Morty, 2021, p. L595), contains several reports about Jondishapoor doctors and their journeys to some cities, including Baghdad (Al-Rohawi, I.A., 2011, p. 192). Based on the presented material, it seems that the authors of the discussed article did not use reliable and appropriate sources to write their article.

Conflict of Interest

None.

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