

Saliba Chapter 2: The Islamic Scientific Tradition: Questions of Beginnings II

1. What is the purpose of chapter 2? How is it related to chapter 1?
2. What is the special role of astronomy in Saliba's explanations? Why did he choose this field? What call does Saliba make for the researches in other disciplines?
3. What is Saliba's alternative narrative based on? The scholar, the book and dates? Some details on the book.
4. What is the point of the first story (according to Saliba)? Where is it from?
5. What is the point of the second story (according to Saliba)? Where is it from?

6. What is the point of the third story (according to Saliba)?

7. What is the point of the fourth story (according to Saliba)?

8. Al-Nadim does not really explain the real motivation of Khalid b. Yazid to translate an alchemy book. Saliba uses another sources to explain this. What are the details?

9. According to Ibn Khaldun astrology cannot be considered as a valid discipline. Why is that?

10. What twist did CN (classical narrative) give to the dream story and why?

11. What is the alternative narrative (AN) of Saliba? What person seems to have played a key role in creating the conditions that led to rise of scientific activities in the Muslim World? What did he do? What were the consequences?

12. Mainly what points of the CN does Saliba object to and propose an alternative explanation for? What evidence does he present for this?