

# Famous Arab personalities

Taoufiq Cherkaoui



***Tariq Ibn Ziyad*** was a Muslim Umayyad general who led the conquest of Hispania in 711.

This marked the beginning of 8 centuries of Moorish rule of Spain

‘Gibraltar’ is the Spanish derivation of the Arabic name ‘Jabal Tariq’ meaning ‘mountain of Tariq’



***Gamal Abdel Nasser***  
is seen as one of the  
most important political  
figures in the Arab World

Egypt nationalised the  
Suez Canal and played a  
central role in anti-  
imperialist efforts in the  
Arab World

Many in the general Arab  
population still view  
Nasser as a symbol of  
Arab dignity and  
freedom.



## ***Yasser Arafat***

Was a Palestinian leader and laureate of the Nobel Prize.

He was the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)

Many Arabs viewed Arafat as a freedom fighter who symbolised their national aspirations

## *Al Khawarizmi*

Was a mathematician, astronomer, astrologer and geographer.

He is considered by many as the father of Algebra.

His contributions made a great impact on mathematics and language as well

He worked most of his life in the House of Wisdom in Baghdad





## ***Ibn al Haytham***

Was an Arab scientist who made significant contributions to the principles of physics, anatomy, astronomy, engineering, mathematics, medicine, ophthalmology, philosophy, psychology and science

He was nicknamed '*The physicist*'. He worked in Cairo in Egypt and Basra in Iraq

## ***Ibn Sina***

Was an Arab mathematician, psychologist, logician, palaeontologist, poet and scientist.

Ibn Sina made significant contributions to medicine. His most famous works are the Book of Healing, a vast philosophical and scientific encyclopaedia, and the Canon of medicine.



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Avicenna, portrait. Major, 241, 263



## ***Umm Kulthum***

Was an Egyptian singer, songwriter and actress.

At a very young she showed exceptional singing talent. She played the Oud (lute)

More than 3 decades after her death she is still regarded as the greatest female singer in Arab music



## ***Nouhad Haddad***

Famously known as *Fairouz* is a Lebanese singer

She is considered as the most famous living singer in the Arab World

She was born in '*Cedar Mountain*' in Lebanon to a Catholic father and Maronite mother

Fairouz has a repertoire of 1500 songs. She has also been offered prestigious awards and titles over the years



## ***Ibn Khaldoun***

was born in North Africa in present day Tunisia.

Ibn Khaldoun was mathematician, astronomer, scholar, jurist, lawyer, theologian, military strategist, nutritionist, philosopher, social scientist and statesman



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## ***Princess Salma***

Salma Bennani is the Princess Consort of King Mohammed the 6<sup>th</sup>; she is originally from Fes in central Morocco

Salma was educated in Rabat where she completed her engineering studies

Salma is involved in campaigns raising awareness for AIDS and women's rights and empowerment



## ***Queen Rania***

Rania is the current queen of Jordan

Rania focused her energy at home and abroad on a variety of causes

She campaigns for education for Jordanian children, while abroad she advocates for global education



## ***Omar Mukhtar***

Was born in Tobruk in Libya in 1931

In 1912, he organised and, for nearly 20 years, led native resistance to Italian colonisation of Libya

The Italians captured and hanged him in 1931 under the orders of Mussolini

He is seen by many Arabs as the symbol of resistance and freedom



## ***Omar Sharif***

Was born Michael  
Demitri Shalhoub

Omar Sharif is an  
Egyptian actor who  
starred in Hollywood  
films. Most famously  
'Doctor Zhivago' and  
'Funny Girls'

He has been  
nominated for an  
Academy Award and  
has won three Golden  
Awards



## ***Abdel Halim Hafez***

Is the most celebrated and popular singer in the Arab World

Hafez was born in Egypt, he was also an actor and music teacher

He is also widely known as *el-Andaleeb el-Asmar* (The Great Dark Skinned Nightingale)

He is widely regarded as the greatest male musician ever in the Arab world.



## ***Naguib Mahfouz***

Was an Egyptian writer who won the 1988 Nobel Prize for Literature

He is regarded as one of the first contemporary writers of Arabic literature

He published over 50 novels and over 350 short stories, dozens of movies and five plays over a 70-year career

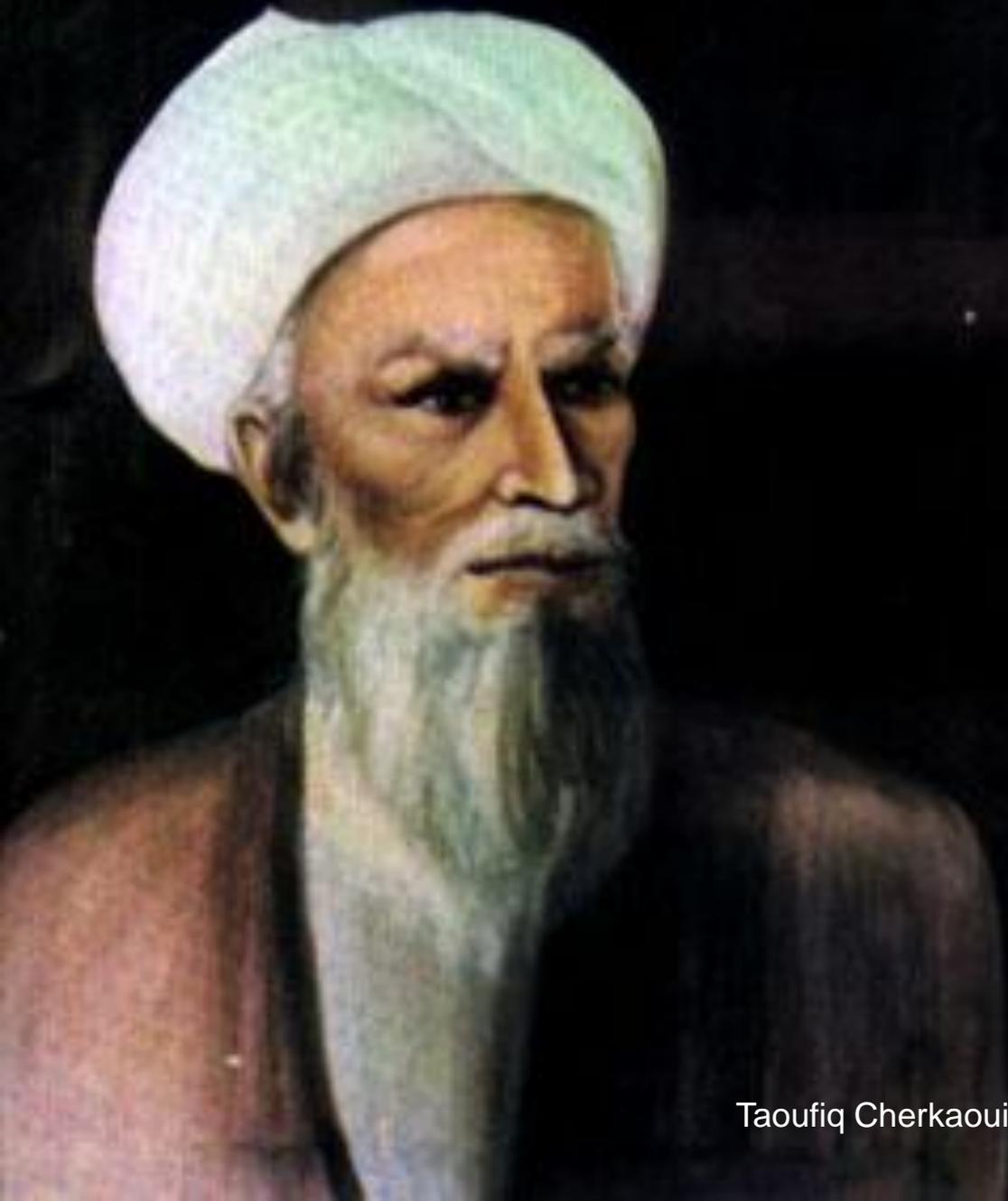
Naguib died in 2006 as a result of a fall



## ***Taha Hussein***

Was one of the most influential 20<sup>th</sup> century Egyptian writers and intellectuals, and a figurehead for the Arab Renaissance and the modernist movement in the Arab World

Dr. Taha Hussein studied in Al-Azhar university and in France. He taught history, Greek and Roman literature in Cairo University



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## ***Al-Razi***

Medicine,  
Ophthalmology,  
Smallpox, Chemistry,  
Astronomy.

Al-Razi wrote on Naft (naphta or petroleum) When choosing a site to build Baghdad's hospital, he hung pieces of fresh meat in different parts of the city. The location where the meat took the longest to rot was the one he chose for building the hospital



## ***Abbas Ibn Firnas***

Was a Muslim Andalusian polymath. He was born in today's Ronda, Spain. He was of Berber descent

Abbas designed a water clock and made corrective lenses.

He is known for an early attempt at flying. Abbas' glider flight is considered by John Harding to be the first attempt at heavier-than-air flight in aviation history