The Jondishapur University

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Abstract:

The city of Jondishapur was founded by the Sassanid king, Shapur I, in Khuzestan. It was expanded under the rule of Shapur II and finally established as the capital of Matran diocese. The city reached its culmination following establishment of its hospital and medical school by Khosrow Anushiravan.

Khosrow Anushiravan sent the Iranian scholar Borzouye to India to collect Indian manuscripts and he brought Kelile væ Demne with him to Iran. Through the settlement of Greek physicians in Sassanid Empire, Jondishapur became the meeting point of Indian, Greek, and Iranian medicine. However, the Greek medicine was predominant. The first transmission of medical knowledge from Jondishapur to Baghdad was the invitation of Jurjis Ibn Bakhtyashu, the head of Jondishapur medical school, by Mansur, the Abbasid Caliph, for treatment of the Caliph.

By establishment of Baytul-Hikma, (the House of Wisdom) in Baghdad, Greek texts of Hippocrates, Galen, and Dioscorides were translated from Greek into Syriac, and then into Arabic, or directly translated from Greek into Arabic by a group of translators under the supervision of Hunayn ibn-Ishaq, his son, Ishaq ibn Hunayn and his nephew Hubaysh. Thus, Greek medicine exerted its influence. By emerging some scholars such as Ibn Māsawayh, Ibn Tabari, Rhazes, Avicenna, and Biruni, the Islamic medicine reached its culmination, and by translation of the texts of these scholars into Latin, they were effective on European universities until the 17th century.

Keywords: Jondishapur, Shapur I, Shapur II, Khorow Anushiravan, Bakhtyashu Family, Māsarjawaih Family

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