

Impact Statement

America Garcia, Grade 11.

Father of Algebra, 2018.

Mixed media on panel, 18 x 13 Inches.

Mill Creek High School, Hoschton, GA

Unsung Hero: Muhammad ibn Musa Al-Khwarizmi

Because of his intellectual acuity and inquisitive nature, Abu Ja'far Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi procured his title as The Father of Algebra and conquistador of knowledge. His ability to extend the boundaries of human knowledge through his dedication to learning demonstrates the immense capacity of the human mind. His work and studies illustrate what it means to be a hero; it means to actively seek ways in which we could innovate society and challenge the status quo.

As I told people about him, I would typically receive very similar responses: a groan followed by a playful "why did he have to do that to us?". Most people absolutely despise math, especially students. But when you think about it, algebra and the rest of the mathematical stems it helped blossom actually made our lives easier rather than harder like a lot of us make it out to be. To students, algebra and math in general could be difficult to understand, much more apply it to real life. Furtherly, we do not believe our teachers when they tell us that we will use math in the future. In reality, they are training us to be creative thinks like Musa al-Khwarizmi.

To me, it's crazy to think that algebra was just there for humans to discover; it is a part of nature. Everything we know of is open to series of complicated equations and to think that we, mere humans, have the ability to take that and create machines and predictions that make our lives comfortable yet still open to the discovery of more makes it seem like we were actually put here-by chance or by a divine being- to create and serve our own purpose.

As not much information is known about Abu Ja'far Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi,

I decided to embrace the mystery that he is. I depicted what he was known for- being an astronomer, geographer, and mathematician- in different styles to show what a versatile man he was. By using contrasting colors, I wanted to emphasize the number system Abu Ja'far Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi helped develop; almost the exact one we still use today.

Additionally, I used the color scheme of gold and burgundy to highlight the importance of the silk road around the time Abu Ja'far Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi thrived. Not only was it the source of wealth, but because of the silk road, communication was available throughout the old world. Thus, Abu Ja'far Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi's work was able to find and enrich the knowledge of every society.

I used social media to spread the information of Abu Ja'far Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi. By using applications such as Discord and Snapchat, my project on The Father of Algebra reached different places of the world- such as Mexico and the United Kingdom--through the help of the internet--our modern-day Silk Road.

I also used traditional methods; whenever one of my friends would come up to me and ask who I was drawing, I would go through the story of Abu Ja'far Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi's discoveries.