

The Electric Lamp: Between Abstraction and Application - A Journey of a Thousand Years!

An Arab Concept with Western Execution

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المصباح الكهربائي: بين التجريد والتطبيق رحلة ألف عام! المفهوم عربي والتنفيذ غربي

It has been said about Arabic poetry that it is the archive of the Arabs. I say with all certainty, and so is their prose. Much of what has reached us about the conditions of the Arabs in the pre-Islamic era, and the news of their later descendants, was captured by their poetry and prose with a precision that is rarely matched. They are the witness to an era devoid of any history or documentation except for a popular, poetic, and prose memory, which safeguarded and protected this history from the erosion of oblivion. If this is the case, then here is this remarkable point.

I read in the crown jewel of their books, in the preciousness of their treasures, the following text: "His light is like a niche in which there is a lamp. The lamp is within glass. The glass as if it were a pearly planet. Lit from a blessed tree, an olive, neither of the east nor of the west, whose oil would almost glow even if untouched by fire. Light upon light." I pondered deeply on the form, on the image drawn by the words, setting aside the metaphor, even if the latter is lofty and profound.

Here, we find a magnificent description of a luminous source unlike any other known to the people of that time. Whether this light source was hidden in a niche in a wall or perched atop a wooden pole matters not, for its light is dazzling and powerful. Its creator surrounded it with a transparent glass structure, transparent to light, protecting its flame from the mischief of the wind and the curiosity of intruders. But at the same time, it allows, meaning the glass cover, the ray of light to pass through gently from its substance, illuminating the darkness... lighting up the place.

Wait! A luminous flame enveloped by transparent glass? Humanity did not know a similar physical form made of glass until the European Renaissance era, I dare say, meaning more than a thousand years after the phrasing of this statement... No matter. Let's not allow the issue of glass to scratch the affection between us. Let's leave the form aside and let the essence be our point of contention. The fuel of the lamp and the source of energy for its luminous flame, for therein lies all the difference.*

It is an oil not like other oils, or perhaps it is oil-like. It intersects with it only in function, not in physical nature. Both produce light but by two very different mechanisms. Fire is the basis of the operation of oils if they desire illumination, but this one we are describing is something else. It illuminates without fire, without combustion. It is a fuel but not what people were accustomed to back then. It was extracted from a magical tree that does not exist in the east or west of the earth. A tree from another world, a virtual world, built by the imagination of this creative portrayer. Thus, the portrayer adds an additional element to indicate the uniqueness of this fuel in both; its physical nature and its source as well. It's as if he wanted to say that it is not oil, nor is it extracted from trees as you might think. Yet, it is fuel for your lamp which will be, and an energy for its flame unmatched by any energy you know.

This light apparatus was too complex for minds of that time to comprehend. So, the creative portrayer took it to another description, kindly sparing people from confusion. Approaching the unfamiliar through the familiar, from what is on people's tongues, is an effective recipe to avoid negative reactions. Thus, the metaphors of meaning sneak into people's minds without abruptness. They get the first dose of meaning immediately, fulfilling his immediate purpose. The ultimate purpose is postponed, to be summoned by people later in a future time that might be relatively far.

I will not go further in induction, or enticement. You must have early on reached the truth of what I am aiming at. I will leave it to you to draw the conclusions and summaries yourself. For the text is Qur'anic, and the creative portrayer is the

Creator, Glory be to Him, the Most High. He intended it as a description of His great light or an approximation of it, making it easier for us humans to contemplate the descriptions and meanings, in the most precise expression.

The description came as people love to see it ("as if it were a pearly planet"), easy for them to visualize ("His light is like a niche in which there is a lamp"), and its puzzle entertains the reader, engaging them in deciphering the words and assembling the meanings and linking them to images in their repository ("like a niche in which there is a lamp. The lamp is within glass. The glass as if it were a pearly planet"). Then come afterwards the magical, metaphysical worlds that awe people, making them captives of majesty and mystery ("Lit from a blessed tree, an olive, neither of the east nor of the west, whose oil would almost glow even if untouched by fire. Light upon light").

This is a drop from an ocean of meanings. This is their apparent meaning, and some of their hidden essence. The overall image is intimate, attractive to people in every era. But, is there not another meaning concealed within the depths of the words? Is there not something hidden underlying all this attire? Is there not a signification or an indication of an inevitable future event yet to come in the days ahead? Is there not in all of this what casts resemblance and suspicion on some of what we have, which we use to dissipate the darkness of our nights? Ponder deeply, do not rush to judgments. And contemplate the meanings and the images, for their hidden depths are great.

A pearly planet illuminated by magical oil from a mythical tree – a beautifully woven image, and nothing lovelier. The display is captivating and enchanting enough to immerse the soul in the abundance of divine light. And it is mysterious enough to raise questions and pose suspicions. So, no soul is satisfied with what the apparent description suggests. For there, beyond the visual wonder, lies the dormant pearl, and the secret meanings slumber.

Important Note:

In the same context, I recommend reading a second article of mine titled:

The Analogical Mind and the Abstract Mind: In Analogy There Is Shortcoming, and in Abstraction There Is Attainment (DOI)

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In other contexts, you can also read the following articles:

-  [DOI *The Spinal Reflex, New Hypothesis of Physiology*](#)
-  - [*The Hyperreflexia, Innovated Pathophysiology*](#)
-  [DOI *The Spinal Shock*](#)
-  - [*The Spinal Injury, the Pathophysiology of the Spinal Shock, the Pathophysiology of the Hyperreflexia*](#)
-  [DOI *Upper Motor Neuron Lesions, the Pathophysiology of the Symptomatology*](#)
-  [DOI *Hyperreflexia \(1\): Pathophysiology of Disproportionate Motor Response*](#)
-  [DOI *Hyperreflexia \(2\): Pathophysiology of Bilateral-Response Hyperreflexia*](#)
-  [DOI *Hyperreflexia \(3\): Pathophysiology of Extended Hyperreflexia*](#)
-  [DOI *Hyperreflexia \(4\): Pathophysiology of Multi-Motor-Response Hyperreflexia*](#)
- [DOI *The pathophysiology of Triple flexion Reflex*](#)
-  [DOI *The Clonus, 1st Hypothesis of Pathophysiology*](#)
-  [DOI *The Clonus, 2nd Hypothesis of Pathophysiology*](#)
-  [DOI *The Clonus, Two Hypotheses of Pathophysiology*](#)

-  [DOI *The Nerve Transmission through Neural Fiber, Personal View vs. International View*](#)

-  - [*The Nerve Transmission through Neural Fiber \(1\), The Action Pressure Waves*](#)
-  - [*The Nerve Transmission through Neural Fiber \(2\), The Action Potentials*](#)
-  - [*The Nerve Transmission through Neural Fiber \(3\), The Action Electrical Currents*](#)
-  - [*The Function of Standard Action Potentials & Currents*](#)
-  - [*The Three Phases of Nerve transmission*](#)

 DOI [*Neural Conduction in the Synapse \(Innovated\)*](#)

-  DOI [*Nodes of Ranvier, the Equalizers*](#)
-  - [*Nodes of Ranvier, the Functions*](#)
-  - [*Nodes of Ranvier, First Function*](#)
-  - [*Nodes of Ranvier, Second Function*](#)
-  - [*Nodes of Ranvier, Third Function*](#)
-  - [*Node of Ranvier, The Anatomy*](#)

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 - [*The Wallerian Degeneration*](#)

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 DOI [*Wallerian Degeneration: Affects Motor Axons while Sparing Sensory Axons*](#)



DOI [The Sensory Receptors](#)



DOI [Electroneurography vs. Neural Reality: Hidden Fallacies in Nerve Conduction Studies](#)



DOI [Piriformis Muscle Injection: Personal Approach](#)



DOI [In Philosophy of Nerves: Pain First!](#)



DOI [In Neurodoctrines: Form is Necessity!](#)



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- [Posterior Interosseous Nerve Syndrome](#)



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- [Cauda Equina Injury, New Surgical Approach](#)



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DOI [Biceps Femoris' Long Head Syndrome \(BFLHS\)](#)



DOI [Barr Body, The Whole Story \(Innovated\)](#)



- [Adam's Rib and Adam's Apple, Two Faces of one Sin](#)



- [Adam's Rib, could be the Original Sin?](#)



- [Barr Body, the Second Look](#)



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- *Boy or Girl, Mother Decides!*



- *Oocytogenesis*



- *Spermatogenesis*



- *This Woman Can Only Give Birth to Female Children*



- *This Woman Can Only Give Birth to Male Children*



- *This Woman Can Give Birth to Female Children More Than to Male Children*



- *This Woman Can Give Birth to Male Children More Than to Female Children*



- *This Woman Can Equally Give Birth to Male Children & to Female Children*



- *Eve Saved Human Identity; Adam Ensured Human Adaptation*



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