Quarantine first introduced by Ibn Sina

In these days of corona virus pandemic, major emphasis is on preventive measures. The words "Quarantine" has become a household word. Very few know about its origin and the fact that its concept was first given by none other than the Final Prophet of Allah, Muhammad ﷺ . We found following article in Manila Times very relevant which we are reproducing here, thanking the author and the newspaper![1]

USTADZ (Teacher, Professor) Abdul Baki Abubakar, popularly known as Ustadz Baki, is a respected theologian in the Philippines and an alumnus of the Al-Azhar University in Cairo. He narrated the life of the Muslim scholar of medicine, Ibn Sina (980-1037), who suspected that some diseases were spread by microorganisms.

Ibn Sina's full name was Abu Ali Al-Hussein Ibn Abdullah Ibn Sina. In the West, he is known by the Latin version of his name: Avicenna.

Ustadz Baki said Ibn Sina came up with the method of isolating people for 40 days to prevent human-to-human contamination, calling this method al-Arba'iniya ("The Forty").

He added that traders from Venice heard of the successful method applied by Ibn Sina and took this knowledge back to Italy and called it "Quarantena" ("The Forty" in Italian).

This is where the word "quarantine" comes from.

Now it can be told, Ustadz Baki said, that methods currently being used in much of the world to fight pandemics have their origins in the Islamic world.

Allah says in the Quran: "Who saves one human life, it is as if he has saved all mankind" (Al-Maaida: The Table, 5:32).

Even today, Ibn Sina's method saves thousands, perhaps millions, of lives, Ustadz Baki pointed out.

He said the Prophet of Islam historically dealt with pandemics during his time, and his methods are now guidelines set by the World Health Organizations to deal with the current coronavirus pandemic.

"Wash your hands frequently, don't leave infected areas and don't visit infected areas," can be attributed to Islam's final messenger ﷺ, Ustadz Baki added.

He said the guidelines are based on the historic hadith, or narration, of the Prophet, which has been widely shared across social media platforms after the current coronavirus crisis began to spread across the world since last year.

"When you hear that a plague is in a land, do not enter it and if the plague breaks out in a place while you are in it, do not leave that place," Prophet Mohammad ﷺ said.

"Do not place a sick patient with a healthy person," the Prophet ﷺ added in another narration.

Ustadz Baki said the instructions now to stop the spread of coronavirus appear to mirror the advice of the Prophet ﷺ.

It's unfortunate that the title of Ibn-e-Sina's book " القانون فى الطب " (Al-Qanoon fit Tib) is translated as "Canon of Medicine! Qanoon means law and not the canon. The proper translation would have been "The law of Medicine". The seed of education and research put in the soil by Quran and the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in 6th & 7th centuries resulted in mushrooming of great scientists and big bang of modern sciences in all spheres of human life. All modern sciences have stamp "Made through Quran". Thousands of Muslim inventions have great impact in today's life including cameras, computers, glasses, diesel, petrol, concrete road, modern medical training, medical licensing. Muslim rulers like Slahuddin, Mehmood Ghaznawi, Ma'moon Rasheed etc. were the most generous sponsors and supporters of education and research. Unfortunately, evil anti human forces have defamed Islam and Muslims by forming terrorist groups and carrying out terrorism and blaming Islam. The evil media has done most destructive job through spreading misinformation. To see a glimpse of Muslim inventions I recommend "1001 Inventions by National Geographic" and "History of the Arabs | SpringerLink" by Philip K. Hitti

The Wikipedia has following to add;
Medieval (5th-15 centuries; middle ages) Islamic world
The Islamic prophet Muhammad advised quarantine: "Those with contagious diseases should be kept away from those who are healthy." Ibn Sina also recommended quarantine for patients with infectious diseases, especially tuberculosis.

The mandatory hospital quarantine of special groups of patients, including those with leprosy, started early

in Islamic history. Between 706 and 707 the sixth Umayyad caliph Al-Walid I built the first hospital in Damascus and issued an order to isolate those infected with leprosy from other patients in the hospital. The practice of mandatory quarantine of leprosy in general hospitals continued until the year 1431, when the Ottomans built a leprosy hospital in Edirne. Incidents of quarantine occurred throughout the Muslim world, with evidence of voluntary community quarantine in some of these reported incidents. The first documented involuntary community quarantine was established by the Ottoman quarantine reform in 1838.

References:

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2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QeGPIfBYpkk
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