

Jabir Ibn Aflah Encyclopedia Article

Jabir Ibn Aflah

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Jabir Ibn Aflah

1100-1160

Arab mathematician and astronomer whose *Islah al-majisti* (Correction of the *Almagest*) proved to be a strong influence on scholars throughout the Mediterranean and Europe. A native of Seville, Aflah knew Moses ben Maimon (Maimonides, 1135-1204). He developed a theorem in spherical trigonometry that bears his name, and created an instrument called the torquentum for making transformations between spherical coordinates. His critique of Ptolemy's (c. 100-170) *Almagest* exerted an impact on a number of thinkers, among them Ibn Rushd (Averroës, 1126-1198).