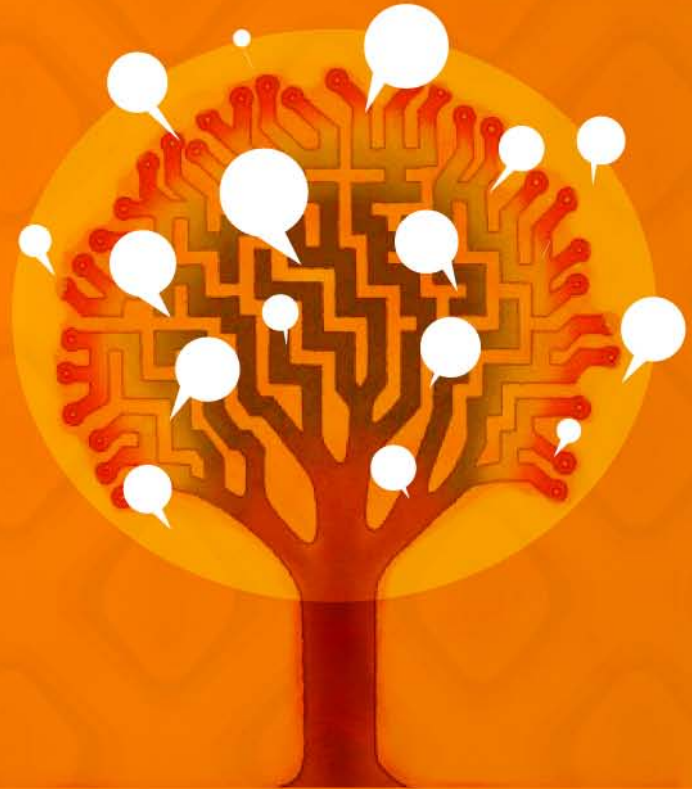


A PETITION FOR:

GOVERNMENTS
across the
MUSLIM WORLD





Islam and Social Media: Would Ibn Khaldun Have a Facebook Profile?

Ibn Khaldun: Philosopher and Founder of Social Media

— The greatest philosopher Muslim the world has never known.

Many scholars consider **Ibn Khaldun**, the Father of Social Sciences. Wrote the seminal work called the **Muqqadimeh**, far-sighted view of learning and discovery, taking its author into fields as varied as **astronomy**, the **science of history**, **economics**, **sociology** and **the scientific method** itself.



— In the **Muqqadimeh**,

Khaldun openly criticizes “**idle superstition and uncritical acceptance of historical data**” – a radical view for the times in which this great mind lived.

“A philosophy of history which is undoubtedly the greatest work of its kind that has ever yet been created by any man in any time or place.”

Arnold Toynbee, British historian

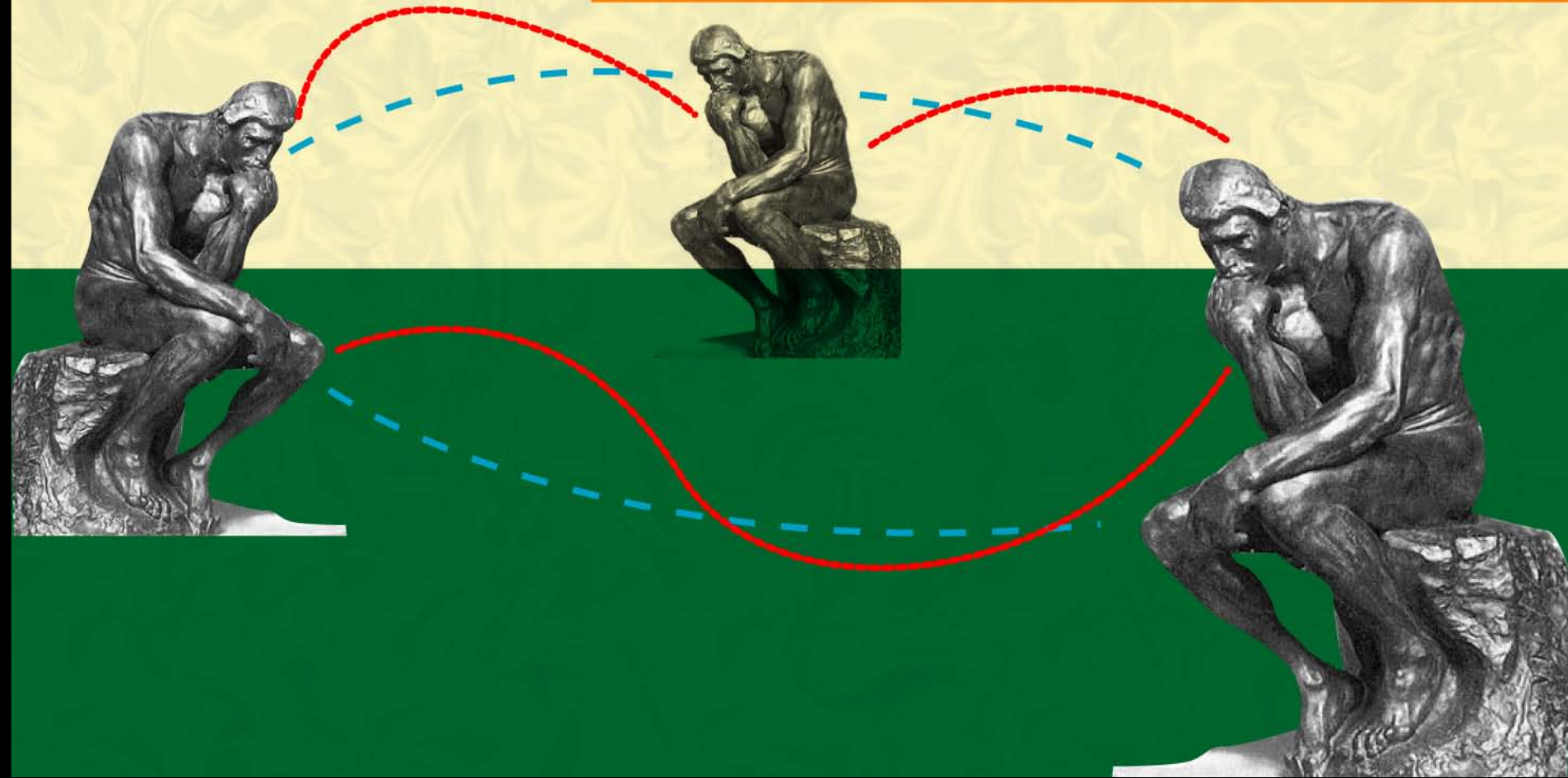
— **Khaldun** identifies **the roles of cultural bias** and the negative impact these views have on standards of evaluating scientific evidence.

Numerous examples of how cultural, religious and societal biases have diminished the value of empirical data, and impeded the dissemination of this information.



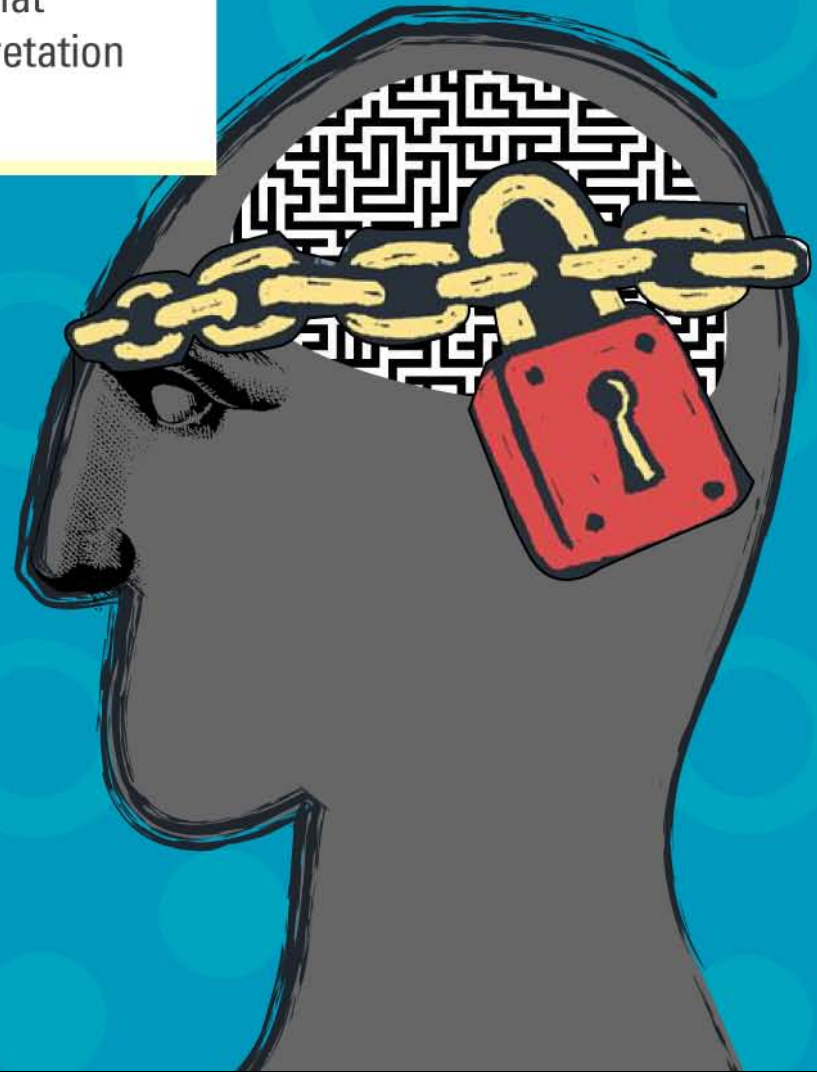
Science is discovery

Ibn Khaldun and Leonardo Da Vinci recognized the importance of unbiased research and, just as importantly, **the engagement of others in the exchange of ideas.**



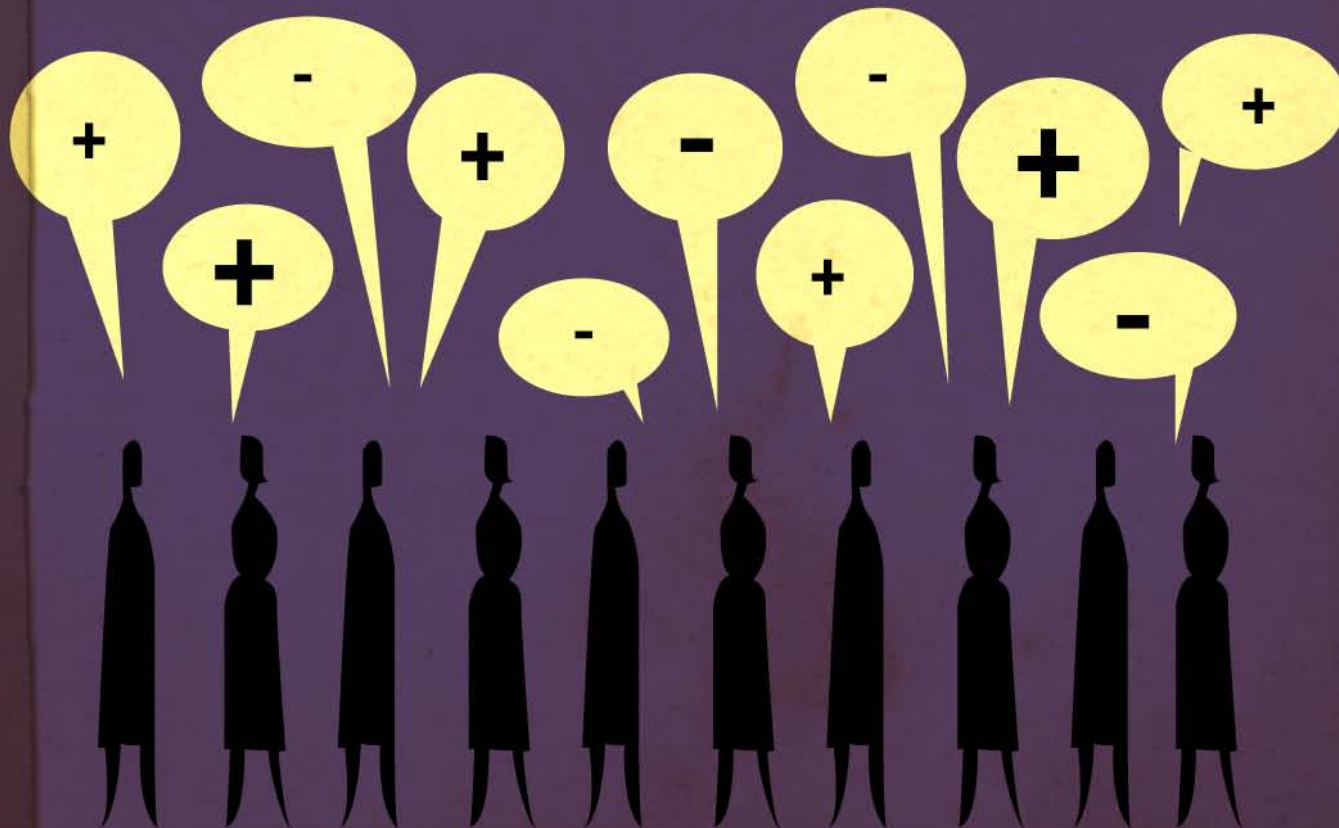
Bias is self-limiting

In the mind of this Muslim thinker, these biases diminish the value of knowledge and the study of both the physical and sociologic spheres. **Ibn Khaldun** recognizes that personal bias has a negative impact on the interpretation and use of data, however it is gathered.



— And today, within the Muslim world

We see similar points of view, especially among the youth of the Muslim world who passionately seek out **discussion and exchange**.



Assabiyyah is a disease that weakens the Muslim ummah.

Demands that tribal members support their own, whether a member believes that the tribe's activities are right or wrong, the oppressed or the oppressor.





Assabiyyah vs. Engagement The battle ahead.

Increase knowledge and development simply by **sharing views with others** clans, religious sects or citizens of a town, region or nation.

Engagement encourages discovery, requires it of members of the group, regardless of the reason for the group's existence.

How strong is your foundation?

There are numerous forms of assabiyyah based on **ethnic descent, regionalism, racism and tribalism**. Some in the Muslim world view engagement with other nations and other peoples around the globe as impractical and unfruitful.





Assabiyyah remains a powerful, cultural influence.

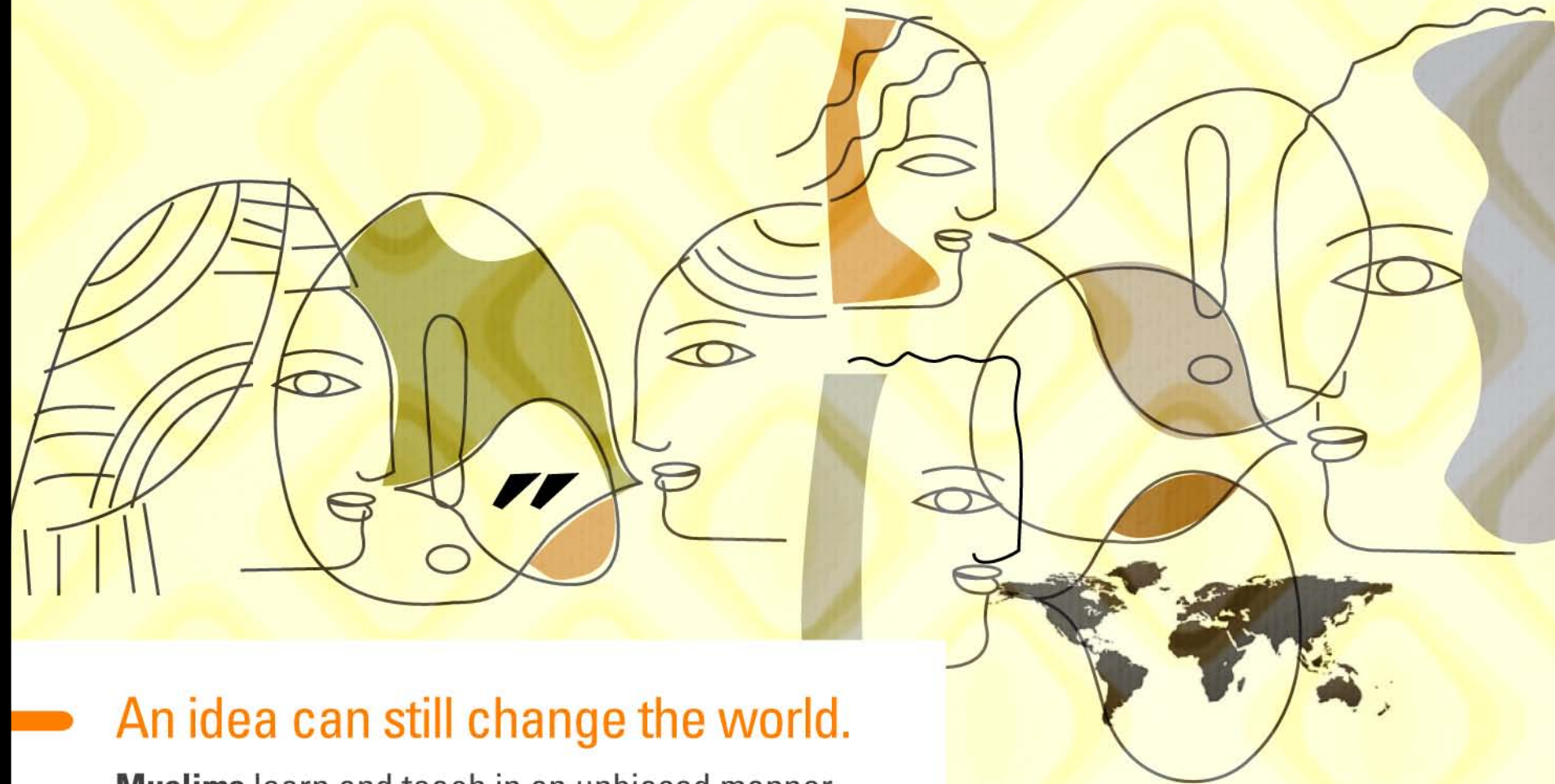
The truth, if principles of assabiyyah are believed, will only be found within one's own group, one's own tribe, clan or nation.

Assabiyyah excludes the possibility of **learning from outside** one's tribe, clan, region, religion or nation.



The World needs **ideas** that spread.

In simpler terms, if you only believe what your clan, tribe or nation believes, by default you view other opinions as inferior to your own and for that reason you shut out what is best in others.



An idea can still change the world.

Muslims learn and teach in an unbiased manner, without the self-limiting adherence to assabiyyah. While we still live in a world of tribes and clans. As Muslims, we must engage those who hold different beliefs to both teach them and learn from them.



What should we expect of our governments within our neighborhood of the ever-shrinking planet?

Assabiyyah is a belief that limits development and in engaging other global citizens (tribes) and listening with hearts and minds open and free of bias.

What is the role of Government in the World of social media?

Engrained, cultural beliefs die hard and the principles of assabiyyah are still practiced at the local, national and regional levels throughout the World. Some Muslim governments ban the use of the social media sites.

This control of social media by governments is self-limiting

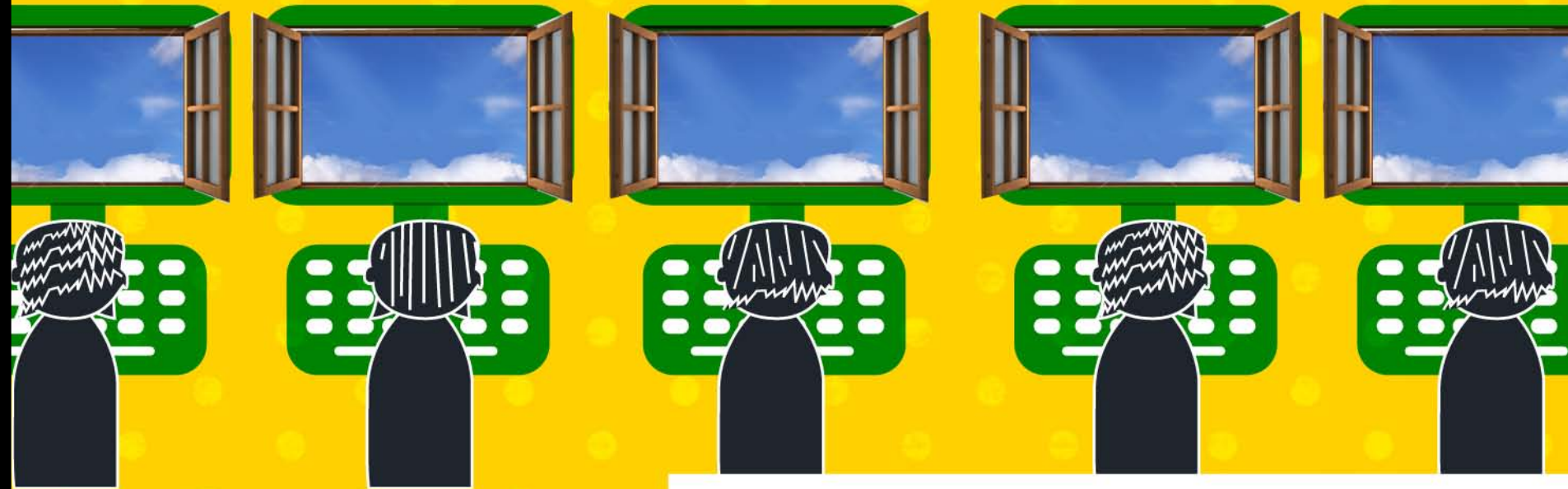




The role of Government is to lead!

Government provides open access to all social media to enable its people to engage the full spectrum of thought, regardless of source.

Ibn Khaldun would welcome the opportunity to exchange theories with a colleague half-way around the world.



— Governments encourage the young people of today to interact with other young people around the world.

Government provides schools with the tools required for Muslim youth to engage the world. These tools include computers, and unfettered linkage to social sites.



Engaging the global citizenry is the key to the future.

Though few in the West are familiar with Ibn Khaldun's *Muqqadimeh*, the lessons put forth by this great scholar are the foundation upon which modern sciences are based. His insights changed the way science evolved, centuries before Newton, Copernicus and other Western scientists.



— The role of government?

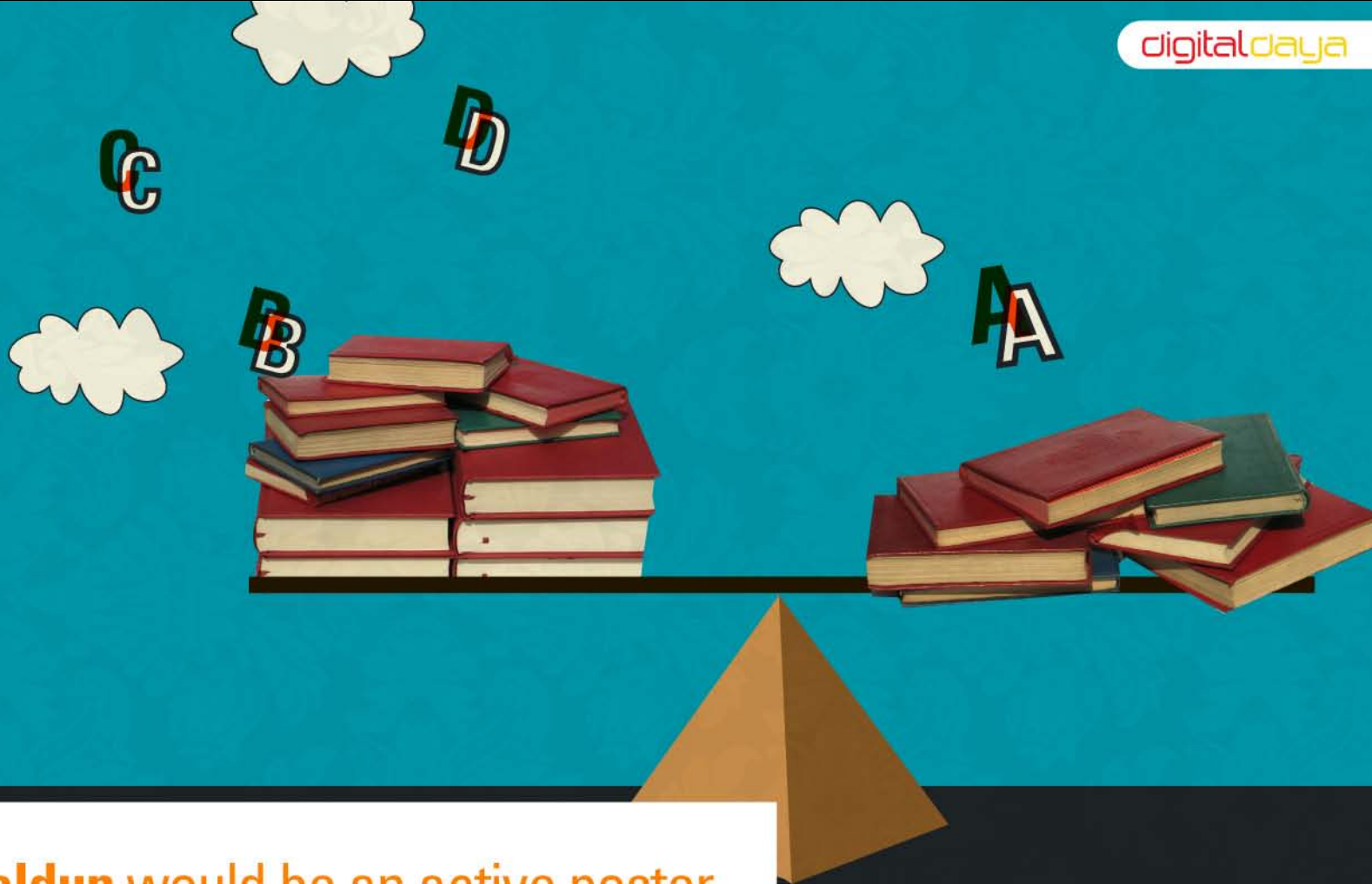
To facilitate the process of engagement with other global citizens around the world.





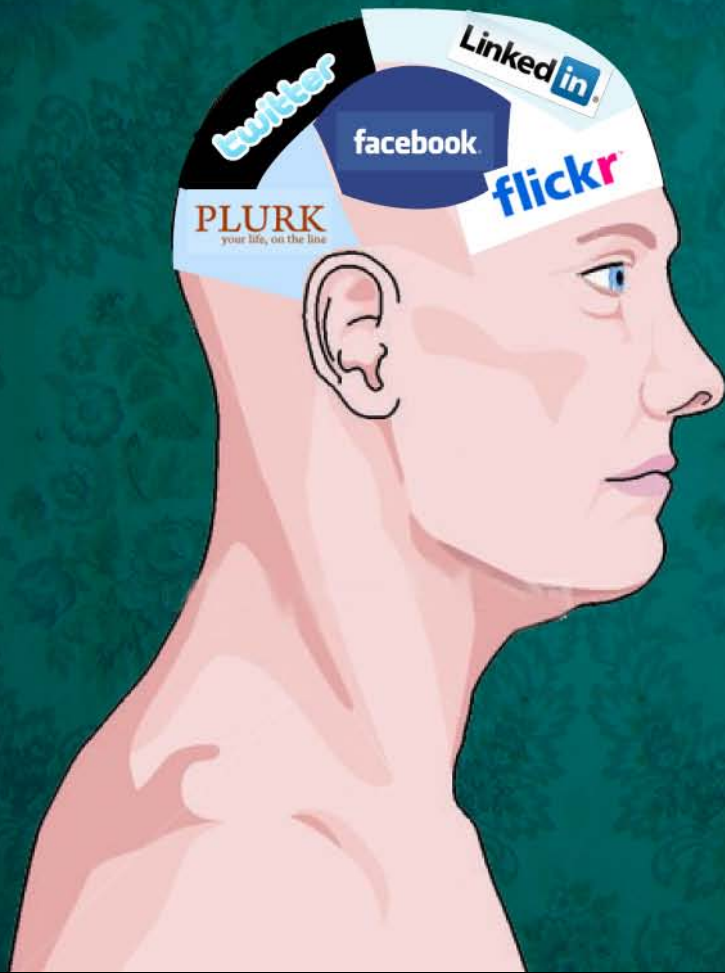
So, would Ibn Khaldun have a profile page on **Facebook**?

Facebook is a website that encourages engagement between peoples who hold different opinions, different beliefs, values, religions and cultural mores.



Ibn Khaldun would be an active poster to a number of social media sites.

Wikipedia, the on-line encyclopedia, is a noble experiment in bringing together the knowledge of all cultures, tribes, clans, religions, ethnic groups and races.



— Social media allows everyone to witness firsthand the power of ideas.

Ibn Khaldun would have a Facebook profile. He'd also have a LinkedIn profile, a profile on Plurk, he would be a strong advocate of SMSs like Twitter, recognizing that the speed at which information is spread adds value to that information.

O mankind! Lo!
We have made you
nations and tribes
that ye may know
one another.

- The Holy Quran, Al-Hujraat verse 13 -





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