Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP E1, MAA Session on Mathematics in the Islamic World

1003-E1-294Lawrence D'Antonio* (ldant@ramapo.edu), Ramapo College, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd.,
Mahwah, NJ 07430. An Islamic Renaissance: Mathematics in Safavid Persia.

This talk examines the social and cultural context for mathematics during the Safavid dynasty of 17th century Persia. The Safavid period represents, perhaps, the last flowering of classical Islamic science. Under the reign of the Safavid ruler Shah Abbas I, 1588-1629, a cultural renaissance occured in the capital city of Isfahan. This renaissance is examined in terms of its own achievements and its relationship to earlier Islamic work in mathematics and astronomy. A particular focus is given to the work of the Islamic philosopher, engineer, mathematician, and poet, Baha al-Din al-Amili. (Received September 08, 2004)