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1003-E1-527 **Dant A. Tawfeeq*** (dtawfeeq@yahoo.com), Florida A&M University, School of General Studies:
Mathematics Div., 200-A Gore Education Complex, Tallahassee, FL 32307. *Islamic Hegemony and
its Influence on the Mathematical Sciences in Pre-Colonial West Africa.*

This paper is positional in nature. That is, this paper will argue that though the religion of Islam engendered the notion of scholarship in West African Cultures, the Arabic numerals and writing system provided West Africans with a mode to extend the usage of the mathematical sciences. This paper will reason that the West Africans were well aware of mathematics and its usages before the Arabic script, however the implementation of this numeral and writing system better equipped the West Africans to acquire and impart knowledge of mathematical sciences more efficiently. Proof will be shown that the classification of old mathematical ideas and the acquisition of new mathematical ideas from the Islamic World, due to the Arabic numerals/script, helped West Africa enter into one of several documented renaissances. This paper will utilize research done by historians from the African, Arab and Western Worlds. (Received September 20, 2004)