



medieval Muslim scientist Abu Ali al-Hassan ibn al-Haytham (Alhazen). Not widely known in the West, Alhazen was the greatest scientist of the Middle Ages, and his achievements in the field of optics were groundbreaking. He was the conceptual pioneer of the camera obscura, and his early ideas about light and vision were revolutionary. The discussion is an inspiring reminder that many in the West readily embrace a Eurocentric view of scientific achievement.

Finally, Zewail shares his thoughts on future relations between the developing and the developed world, particularly on the future of Egypt and the U.S. In chapters titled "A Personal Vision: The World of the Have-Nots" and "Walks to the Future: My Hope for Egypt and America," Zewail demonstrates his concern and sets out his hopes, along with a number of concrete proposals. As one who has spent

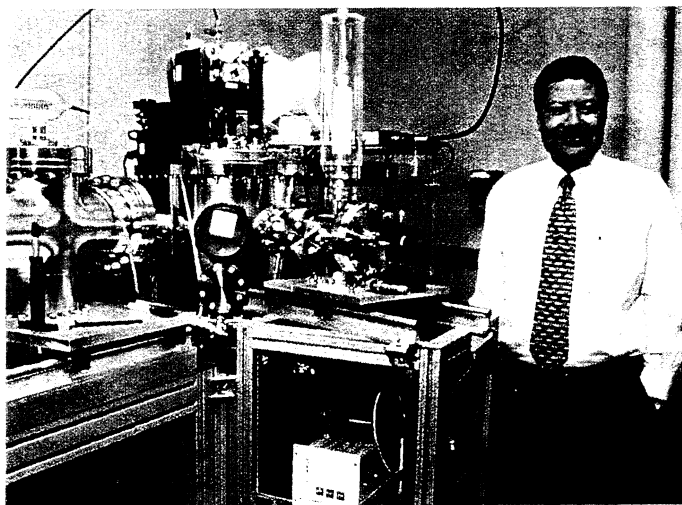


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**CALIFORNIA DREAMER** Zewail poses in his laboratory at Caltech after being named to receive the 1999 Nobel Prize.

a good deal of time in both countries, Zewail has the advantage of knowing each society intimately. This provides a broadened perspective and a distinctive vantage point from which to critique both societies. While he recognizes and appreciates the strengths of both Egyptian and American

society, Zewail points to a number of shortcomings in each and offers thoughtful recommendations. His frank assessment and recommendations for changing the scientific landscape in his native Egypt is neither hesitant nor condescending. Zewail speaks to these matters with clarity and courage.

"Voyage through Time" is a candid story of a remarkable journey that began on the banks of the Nile some 50 years ago. It is a captivating and inspiring account of the personal, humanistic, and scientific vision of a truly brilliant and illustrious scientist. This is a book well worth reading.

*Father and son **Vincent and Christopher McKoy** have known Ahmed Zewail for more than two decades. Vincent is a professor of chemistry at California Institute of Technology; Christopher is a graduate student in political science at the University of California, Santa Barbara.*