During the Middle Ages astronomy flourished mainly in Moslem lands. The figure on the right above is Ulugh Beg, an outstanding observer of fifteenth-century Samarkand.

Astronomers of Istanbul Observatory. Men such as these had learnt the theories of Ptolemy. They had also realized that those theories did not fit the facts as they found them.

Reconstructions of the observatory at Samarkand. Left: General view. Center: View showing placing and size of the great mural quadrant. Right: Full view of quadrant.