

The Light of the Moon: Ibn al-Haytham and Galileo

Friday, 5 November 2021 10:00 (30 minutes)

In a treatise entitled *On the Light of the Moon*, the physicist and mathematician of the 10th-11th centuries Ibn al-Haytham proves that the Moon is not a polished body and that it does not reflect the light it receives from the Sun in the way a convex mirror does. Almost six centuries later, Galileo takes up the same problem in his famous *Dialogues Concerning the Two Great World Systems*. By a method which is somewhat different from that of Ibn al-Haytham, he arrives at a similar conclusion.

The aim of this article is to discuss the similarities and the differences of the two methods and the conclusions their authors draw from them.

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