فلك يُرِيْكَ به هلالا طالعا متزيدا ويعود في نقصان ويريك جرمَ النيرين كليهما يتقابلان به ويجتمعان ويريك مبلغ سير كل منهما في العام أو الشهر أو في الآنَ نَتَجَتْهُ همةُ عالِـمٍ بصنائع بنيت على التحقيق والبرهان انظر إلى فلك يريك عجائبا فيه تبيين حكمة الرحمن حركاته شتى بفرد محرك وله معاني فوق كل معاني في سنة خيح هجرية.

This is an astrolabic disc, which can show you: a crescent moon, which progressively waxes and then returns to its waning phase; the celestial bodies of the sun and moon, when they are in opposition or in conjunction; and the points on their paths in a given year or month or at this moment. This disc is the product of the endeavour of someone learned in the technical arts, which are based on precision and scientific proof. Behold the disc! It will show you many of the wonders that prove the wisdom of the Merciful; its different motions are by virtue of a single mover, and it has meanings going beyond all meanings. Made in 618 AH (1221/2 AD).

This astrolabe shows: (1) the phases of the moon; (2) the relative positions of the sun and the moon in the zodiac; (3) the positions of the sun and the moon throughout the year.

Dr Afifi al-Akiti