

Omar Khayyam



Born: 18th May 1048

Died: 4th December 1131

Omar Khayyam was a Persian (Iranian) astronomer, mathematician and poet. During his life, Khayyam developed a solar calendar (the 'Jalālī' calendar), which was first used in modern-day Iran in 1075. The Gregorian calendar, which we use today, is partly based on his work. Khayyam's calendar, however, is more accurate because an error occurs only on one day in every 3770 years. In the Gregorian calendar, an error happens on one day in every 3236 years.

Khayyam was able to calculate the length of the year very accurately. He worked it out to be 365.24219858156 days, which was correct to the sixth decimal place. Scientists have calculated that the length of a year is 365.242190 days.

