**STORY 3**

**Hospitals**

A hospital is a [health care](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_care) institution providing [patient](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patient) treatment by specialized staff and equipment. In ancient cultures, religion and medicine were linked. In [ancient Greece](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greece), temples dedicated to the healer-god [Asclepius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asclepius), known as *Asclepieia* functioned as centres of medical advice, prognosis, and healing. The earliest documented places aiming to provide cures were [ancient Egyptian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Egypt) [temples](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_temple).

The modern hospital has its roots in a similar institution as established by the Abbasids in Baghdad (during the [Abbasid Caliphate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid_Caliphate) of [Harun al-Rashid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harun_al-Rashid%22%20%5Co%20%22Harun%20al-Rashid)), something hitherto unheard of. The first hospital was founded in 914 C.E. The ‘[bimaristan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bimaristan%22%20%5Co%20%22Bimaristan)’ (medical school) and bayt al-hikmah ([house of wisdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_wisdom)) were established by professors and graduates from Jundishapur and was first headed by the Christian physician [Jibrael ibn Bukhtishu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jabril_ibn_Bukhtishu%22%20%5Co%20%22Jabril%20ibn%20Bukhtishu)  and later by Islamic physicians. Among the physicians here was the renowned Al-Razi (Rhazes).

But to decide where to build this first hospital, physicians had to conduct a field research in order to select the ‘cleanest’ possible spot in Baghdad. Therefore; scientist decided to spread similar pieces of pig-meat ‘pork’ in different areas in Baghdad and to leave them uncovered for one whole day. On the next day, these pieces were collected and extent of ‘rotting’ for each piece was observed. The idea behind this is that ‘less rotting’ indicates ‘more clean environment’, and the reason why pork was selected is the fact that it is very sensitive to hygiene and heat. Based on this research, the location was decided.

While our ‘clean’ hospitals –nowadays- have to follow certain hygiene standards set by different bodies; such as the WHO, they are still accused of producing more resistant strains of bacteria that are difficult to be eradicated by the existing antibiotics.