COMPARATIVE STUDY OF OCCUPATIONAL DERMATOSES AMONG WORKERS IN CEMENT INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

A Thesis

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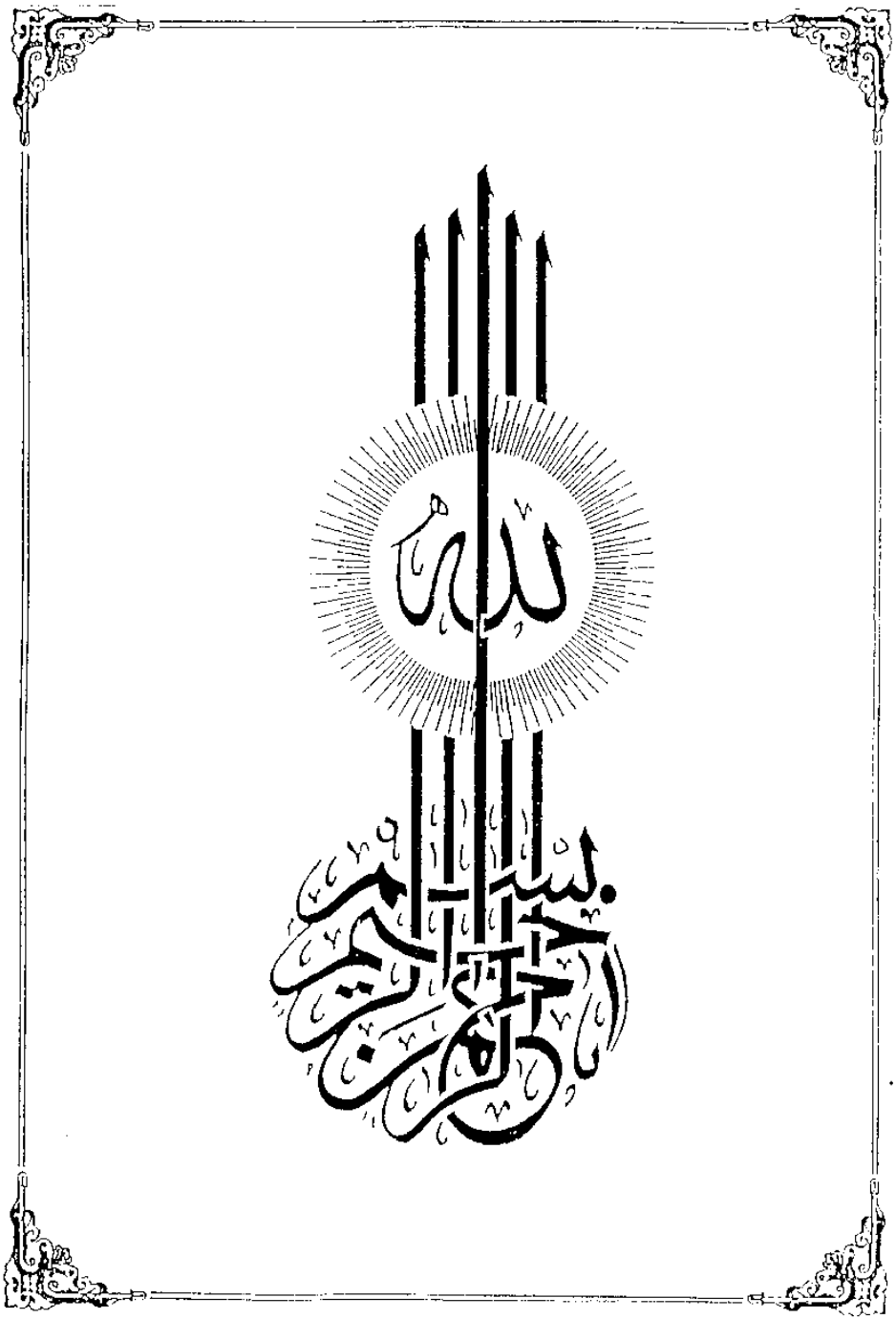

TO MY WIFE AND DAUGHTERS

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INTRODUCTION

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With the creation of man-made dewellings, arose the need for some sorts of binder. Primitive men used for their buildings a mixture of clay and water. The ancient Egyptians used a mortar made of burnt gypsum mixed with sand in constructing the pyramids.
The Romans attained a higher degree of perfection in their buildings, in the making of mortar made of lime.

Since the invention of portland cement by Aspedin in 1824 in England, the incidence of occupational dermatoses among construction workers has been considerably increasing due to the expansion in civilization.

Nowadays, the erection and development of cement industry in any country is considered a sign of progress, to such an extent that civilization of a country is actually measured by the amount of its cement production.

Skin diseases in cement industry are widely reported and have been said to account for about 25% and more of all occupational skin diseases. However, these are more frequent among cement users than among cement manefacturing plant workers. It was suggested that cement eczema might be due to the presence of hexavalent chromium in the cement **(Prodan, 1983).**

In Egypt the number of workers in the different construction activities and cement manefacturing plants, and exposed to cement represents an important segement of the total active working population of the country and is considerably expanding especially after 1973 war. However, no complete information is available about the prevalence of the various dermatoses among them. This study was, therefore conducted to develop such information and to investigate the risk factors that may affect the prevalence of these diseases among cement users and cement manefacturing plant workers. Also, to cover the lacking informations about the chemical composition and trace elements of different types of Egyptian cement.