THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PASSIVE SMOKING AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES AMONG CHILDREN

THESIS

Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Master Degree In Public Health

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

وَقُل رَّبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا

صدق الله العظيم

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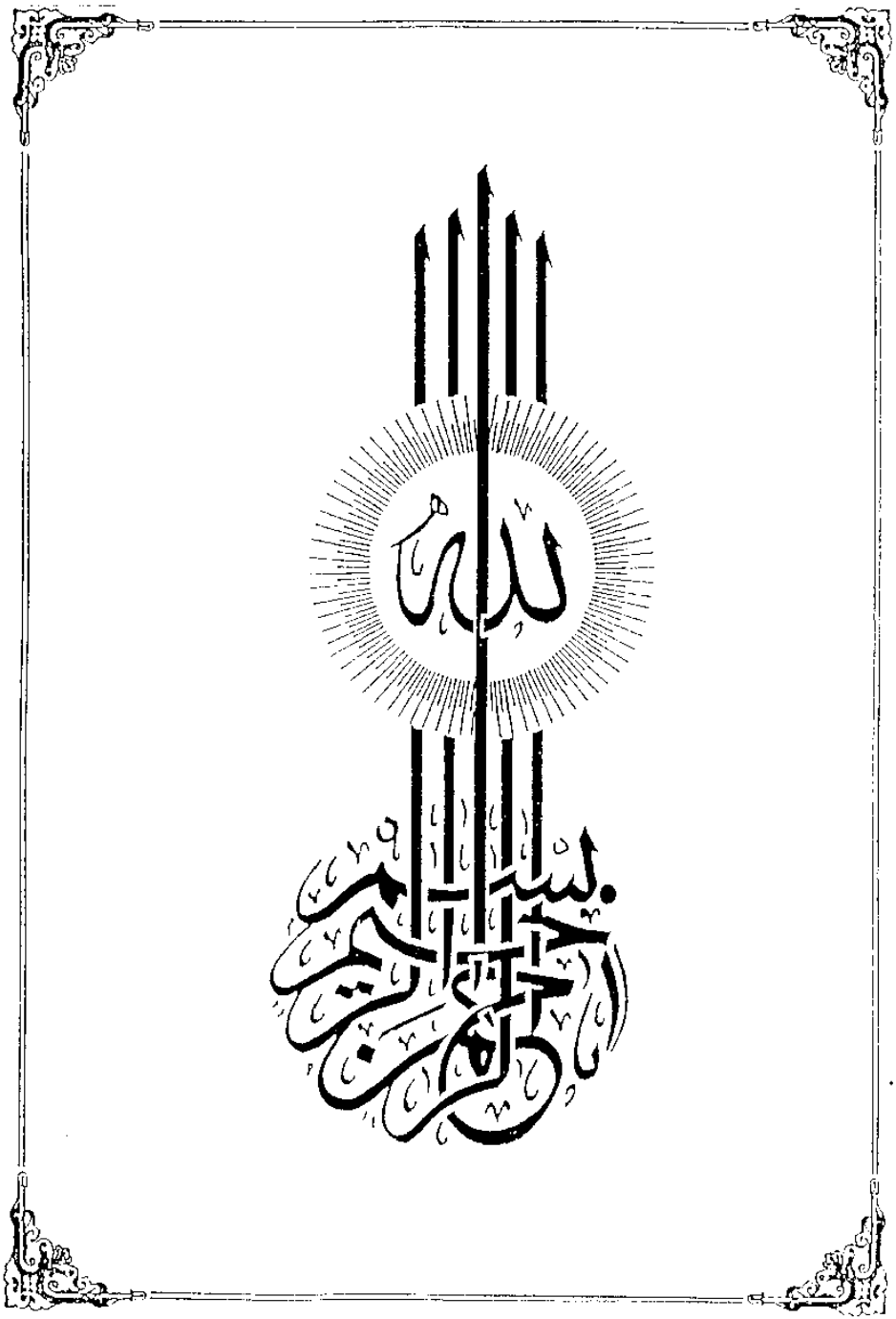

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I DEDICATE THIS THESIS

TO MY HUSBAND AND MY PARENTS

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Recently, attention is being paid to the effect of passive smoking on health, as it has been associated with a variety of harmful effects. Tobacco smoke is the number one avoidable cause of mortality in the United States **(U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1979)**. The possible harmful effects of tobacco smoke on the health of children have become of great concern to health professionals and lay public alike. **(Wall et al., 1985)**.

In Egypt, sample survey carried out in 1986 indicated that the percentage of daily smoking prevalence for both males and females is 20%. Expenditure on tobacco products was increased from 647.9 Million Egyptian Pounds in 1981/82 to 1164.4 Million Egyptian Pounds in 1985/86 **(Omar, 1987)**.

In the United States, it is estimated that about 30% of annual deaths from cardiovascular diseases are attributed to smoking and about 30% of annual cancer deaths are attributed to smoking with 80% resulting from carcinoma of the lung **(Fielding, 1986)**.

Many people spend most of their time indoors, so it is important to determine whether air contaminants from indoor sources (mainly tobacco smoke and gas cooking) affect respiratory illness rates in young children.

AIM OF THE WORK

This study is intended to assess the relationship between passive smoking due to exposure to household tobacco smoke and the frequency of respiratory illnesses during the first, second and third year of life.