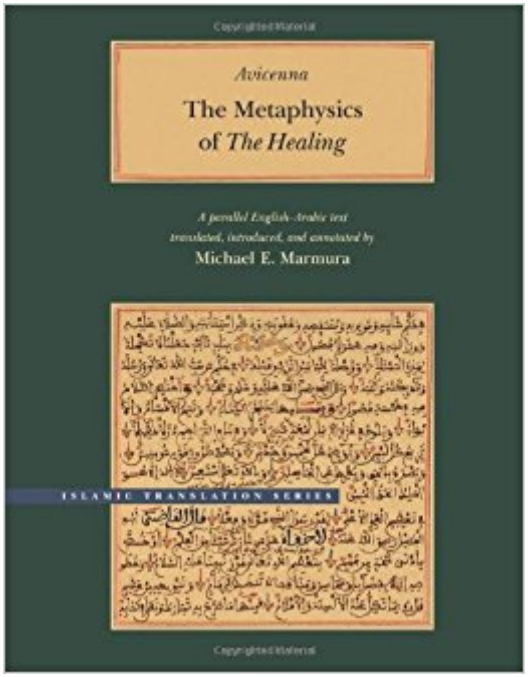
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The Metaphysics Of The Healing (Brigham Young University - Islamic Translation Series)



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Synopsis

Avicenna, the most influential of Islamic philosophers, produced The Healing as his magnum opus on his religious and political philosophy. Now translated by Michael Marmura, The Metaphysics is the climactic conclusion to this towering work. Through MarmuraÃ¢â ¬â„¢s skill as a translator and his extensive annotations, AvicennaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s touchstone of Islamic philosophy is more accessible than ever before.In The Metaphysics, Avicenna examines the idea of existence, and his investigation into the cause of all things leads him to a meditation on the nature of God. From this discussion, Avicenna develops a theory of divine causation that synthesizes Neoplatonic, Aristotelian, and Islamic ideas. Within this emanative scheme, Avicenna establishes some of the basic ideas of his religious and political philosophy, as he discusses the divine attributes, divine providence, the hereafter, and the ideal Ã¢â ¬Å“virtuousÃ¢â ¬Â• city with its philosopher-prophet as the human link between the terrestrial and heavenly realms. With this edition, The Metaphysics can now be better seen as one of the most masterful works of classical Islamic philosophy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A complete English translation is highly welcome and gives a major boost to the study of Avicenna and medieval Arabic philosophy. . . . The translation is excellent." (Ayman Shihadeh Muslim World Book Review)

Michael E. Marmura is Professor Emeritus associated with the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilization of the University of Toronto.

As all the other volumes published under the Islamic Translation Series by Brigham Young University, 'The Metaphysics of the Healing' is a superb achievement both in content and in appearance.We are given here a parallel text with the English translation on the left and the original Arabic on the opposing right side. This has the reading order of the Arabic reversed from the original but as the prospective audience are westerners it makes sense to me.The work itself is divided into ten books in which Avicenna attempts a great synthesis of Aristotelian methods and (neo) Platonic and monotheistic premises. I would recommend more than a passing acquaintance with Avicenna's intellectual predecessors and even then it is hard going at times but for anyone trying to understand the development of high-medieval western or Jewish philosophy it is vital.

The translation is superb, the first one of Avicenna's Metaphysics. It will be indispensable for scholars, but it needed a detailed commentary and more works in the notes.

A+

Ibn Sina's philosophical insights are pivotal in the history of western philosophy and theology of both the Muslim and Christian traditions. Even as later giants in these streams of thought, such as al-Ghazali and Aquinas, took serious issue with some of Ibn Sina's views regarding the eternity of the world, and so on; it is undeniable that certain elements of his thought - e.g. on existence, essence, and modality - proved indispensible to the advanced and subtle formulations in philosophical theology advanced by his later critics. In another way of looking at it, he might have simply advanced one of the clearest philosophic-analytic articulations of those central features of the ontological relation between God and creation described poetically in the text of the monotheistic scriptures.This fine translation of al-Shifa, by one of the world's foremost translater of classical Islamic texts - the philosophically capable Michael Marmura, who also, notably, translated al-Ghazali's Tahafut al-Falsifa - is a long awaited treasure that will hopefully widen access to the ideas of this seminal thinker in intellectual history.

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