



Three Muslim Sages: Avicenna, Suhrawardi, Ibn 'Arabi

Seyyed Hossein Nasr

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Three Muslim Sages: Avicenna, Suhrawardi, Ibn 'Arabi Seyyed Hossein Nasr

Book by Nasr, Seyyed Hossein

Three Muslim Sages: Avicenna, Suhrawardi, Ibn 'Arabi Details

Date : Published December 1st 1976 by Caravan Books (first published January 1st 1969)

ISBN : 9780882065007

Author : Seyyed Hossein Nasr

Format : Unknown Binding 185 pages

Genre : Philosophy, Religion, Islam, History, Spirituality



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Hossein Nasr

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Nasr's focus is on the transcendent reality as expressed through all revealed religions, but in this particular case as culminated in Islam. His effort here is one more in his great corpus of work that embraces all forms of knowledge that have enriched the Islamic tradition. Nasr as a writer has historically encouraged reading "the book of nature" alongside the Qur'an, and to him nature is not just the outdoors, but all available forms of wisdom and experience that enlighten our knowledge of divinity.

I was interest in this book because of the Sufi Tradition and my readings of "The Conference of the Birds" by Attar, "Three Muslim Sages" is a journey unto itself and it provides us with new viewpoints on some of our senses. I hope to reread soon.

Taha rabbani says

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AmirHosein says

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Ahmed says

Pros:

- Great book, amazingly introduced the three sages.
- The author's deep and wide knowledge manifests itself between the lines.
- Great examples like those of the horse and water solidification explaining metaphysical terms like: essence, quiddity ... etc.
- Excellent explanation for the meaning of "Polytheism" in the light of Islamic metaphysics.
- Good explanation of Ibn Arabi's Unity of Being.

Cons:

- The book lacks Quranic verses that supports the doctrines stated, which is a fatal mistake that would either lead the reader to believe blindly or reject due to the lack of a proof. I would say: Mustafa Mahmoud's book "The Greatest Secret" (???? ?????) is much well supported by verses of the Quraan, so that the reader can easily figure out if the doctrine explained make sense or not.
- A lot of points stated as facts without references (example: Theory of Successive Poles "Qutb" which Ibn Khaldun had described as it has no logical evidence from the Quraan or Hadith, in his Muqaddimah).
- Explanation of Ibn Arabi's Sufism was very shallow, unlike the remaining parts of the book.
- The way he picked other sages to include them in his book was very biased towards his homeland (no offense, total respect goes to anyone from any country) ... but it's so strange to talk about Sufism and religion plurality without mentioning for example : Ibn Abdul Jabbar Al-Nefarry, the author of the magnum gem: "Al Mawaquf wal Mokhatabat (Spiritual Stayings and Addrssings)", and so many other Muslim figures.

Finally, I'd say it's a good book to read, but not to start with.. Due to the lack of evidences and proofs, one needs to have a lot of knowledge before accepting ideas/believes from it.

A.J. Saktiana says

It's quite interesting book, focuses introduced Islamic knowledge through these three figures. From Avicenna (Ibn Sina) as the exemplar of Islamic Peripatetic Philosophy to Suhrawardi's theosophy and finally to Ibn Arabi's gnosis.

This book shows us good explanation about divinity theological and metaphysical terms like: essence, quiddity, polytheism.. etc, also shows us historical progression about Muslim in medieval era.

Ali Zarezade says

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Ibrahim Abdulla says

3.5/5

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Hamed says

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