



Location of Conference will be at:

Riverside Church
490 Riverside Drive
New York, NY 10027

New York Open Center
83 Spring Street, New York, NY 10012

To register visit www.opencenter.org or call 212-219-2527 x



NEW YORK OPEN
CENTER & THE IBN
'ARABI SOCIETY
PRESENT:

ISLAM, SUFISM & THE HEART OF COMPASSION

*LIVING THE
TEACHINGS OF
MUHYIDDIN IBN 'ARABI*

A CONFERENCE

FRI, 11/6, 6PM

SAT, 11/7, 9-6PM

\$145 (AFTER 10/08)

1ST EARLY BIRD PRICE \$100,

BY 9/10- SAVE \$45!

2ND EARLY BIRD PRICE \$125,

BY 10/08



Co-Sponsored by Riverside Church of NY &
SIPA-Middle East Institute- at Columbia University

This groundbreaking event, held at the beautiful Gothic cathedral of the historic interdenominational Riverside Church, will explore the wisdom and contemporary relevance of the thirteenth century mystic and teacher Ibn 'Arabi, who is considered the greatest master of gnostic and philosophical Sufism. It will bring together some of the world's leading Ibn 'Arabi scholars and will include talks, workshops, musical performances, poetry readings in Arabic and English, and a film presented by its director, the award-winning Nacer Khemir.

As was evident in the global response to our presidential election, people of good will everywhere are in search of new perspectives and of voices that can transcend narrow interpretations of religion and politics and bring us universal truths and common ground. Ibn 'Arabi was born in Medieval Spain, then home to an extraordinarily enlightened culture of religious tolerance among Muslims, Jews and Christians, a period that can serve us today as an inspiring example of the possibility of fruitful co-existence and cooperation among different cultures—a lesson we desperately need to heed in this period of intense polarization and constant war.

Ibn 'Arabi was one of history's greatest universal mystics and interpreters of the human condition, and his teachings offer us a window into a form of Islam that we in the West are rarely exposed to. Discovering this profound thinker can help us arrive at a much more well rounded and sophisticated understanding of the more exalted aspects of the Islamic cultural heritage.

Please join us for this exceptional presentation of cross cultural dialogue and come deepen your awareness of the very important part of the Islamic tradition that is one of humanity's richest veins of mystical spirit and ecstatic beauty.

**The New
York
Open Center
is
moving to
22 East 30th
Street
by July 1st!**



**Visit www.opencenter.org
for additional details.
212-219-2527**

New York Open Center

The New York Open Center and the Ibn 'Arabi Society bring significant and complementary strengths to this project. The New York Open Center is the largest urban center of holistic learning and world culture in the U.S. Since 1984, more than 250,000 have come through its doors to find educational programs and cultural events that expand the mind and spirit, and to hear fresh alternative voices on matters of perennial concern. We offer over 600 workshops, classes, lectures, performances, conferences, and professional trainings attended by more than 10,000 people each year. In addition, it has become a platform for the world's most accomplished writers, scholars, activists, and visionaries, including spiritual teachers such as Karen Armstrong, Thich Nhat Hanh, Cornel West, Robert Thurman, and others too numerous to list here.

www.opencenter.org

Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society

The Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society is a registered non-profit, tax-exempt organization founded in 1977. The American headquarters of the Society are in Berkeley, CA, with its international headquarters operating out of Oxford, UK. Twenty years of presenting annual symposia in universities and other centers have established the Society as the leading international organization in promoting the remarkable spiritual legacy and teachings of Ibn 'Arabi. The British Society publishes a journal and newsletter, maintains a library and digital manuscript archive in Oxford, hosts numerous public events, and has a website with many articles for on-line reading, pod casts of talks presented at symposia, and information about events and books. www.ibnarabisociety.org

SALMAN BASHIER

Salman Bashier was born in Israel in 1964, and is currently at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute pursuing his proposed research, "Past and Present: Ibn al-Arabi's Mysticism, Religious Fundamentalism and the Sense of History." This project focuses on the relevance of Islamic mysticism and the role it can play in balancing religious fundamentalism. His book *Ibn 'Arabi's Barzakh: The Concept of Limit and the Relationship between God and the World* was published in 2004 by SUNY. His latest book, *The Story of Islamic Philosophy: Ibn Tufayl, Ibn al-Arabi and others On the Limit between Naturalism and Traditionalism*, is due to be published by SUNY this year and will focus on Ibn 'Arabi's relevance to contemporary thought.

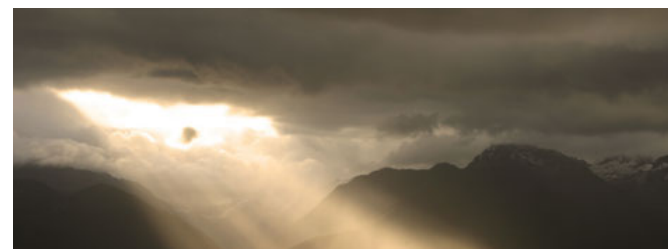


LECTURE

Between Annihilation and Subsistence: Ibn 'Arabi's God of Compassion versus Fundamentalist Nihilism

WORKSHOP

How Ibn 'Arabi's Mystical Love Can Overcome Fundamentalism



WILLIAM CHITTICK

William Chittick, Professor of Religious Studies in the Asian and Asian American Studies Dept. at Stony Brook, has spent 40 years studying Ibn 'Arabi and the pre-modern Muslim intellectual tradition. Among his 30 books, five deal with Ibn Arabi's thought: *The Sufi Path of Knowledge*, *Imaginal Worlds*, *The Self-Disclosure of God*, *Ibn Arabi: Heir to the Prophets*, and (as co-author) *The Meccan Revelations*.



TALK

The Anthropology of Compassion: Ibn 'Arabi and the Quest for Human Perfection

WORKSHOP

The Anthropology of Compassion in Ibn 'Arabi's Futuhat



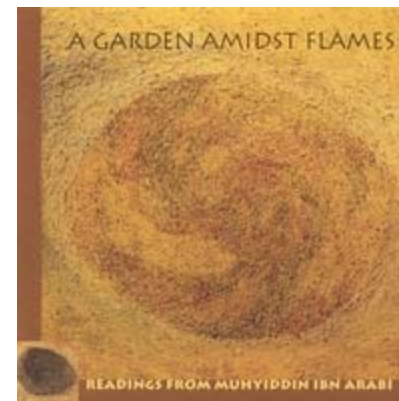
MUSIC AND POETRY

Taoufiq Ben Amor – Taoufiq Ben Amor is a Tunisian vocalist, percussionist and oud player. For the last decade, Taoufiq has been an active performer in the US and Canada. Taoufiq is also an educator, and has founded The Columbia Middle Eastern Music Ensemble and he produces the music series at the Alwan Center for The Arts in New York City. Taoufiq is currently Professor of Arabic at Columbia University. His music ensemble is Tarab.

Aaron Cass- Aaron Cass is a musician, actor and composer and co-founder of the Vastearth Orchestra with whom he has produced 2 albums of classical Middle Eastern poetry set to music, *Green Bird* and *A Garden Amidst the Flames*. The music composed is primarily based and inspired on the readings from Ibn 'Arabi. The group performs nationally in the UK.(album covers below)



Taoufiq Ben Amor



Aaron Cass
Vastearth Orchestra

MOHAMED HAJ YOUSEF

Mohamed Haj Yousef, Ph.D. studied physics in Syria and at Cambridge and had an academic career teaching the subject, but has had a second career as a scholar of Ibn 'Arabi and has written several books including: *Ibn Araib -- Time and Cosmology* and *Shams-al-Magreb* (in Arabic). In addition he runs a website about Ibn 'Arabi - www.ibnalarabi.com, and teaches at United Arab Emirates University.



TALK

Ibn 'Arabi – the Treasury of Absolute Mercy

WORKSHOP

Ibn 'Arabi's view of the cosmos



STEPHEN HIRTENSTEIN

Stephen Hirtenstein, MA, the editor of the Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society's Journal since its inception in 1982 and co-founder of Anqa Publishing, is the author of *The Unlimited Mercifier*, a spiritual biography of Ibn 'Arabi, and co-translator of two treatises by Ibn 'Arabi, *Divine Sayings* and *The Seven Days of the Heart*. (www.ibnarabisociety.org)



TALK

The Mystic's *Ka'ba*: the Wisdom of the Heart According to Ibn 'Arabi

WORKSHOP

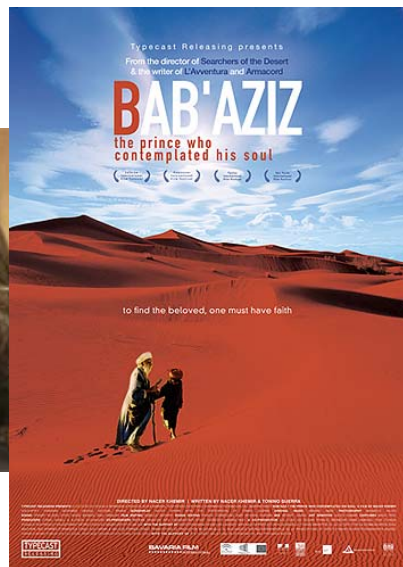
In the Footsteps of the Master: The Life and Times of Ibn 'Arabi



Bab'Aziz: The Prince Who Contemplated His Soul

A Film by Nacer Khemir

This beautiful visual poem by award-winning director Nacer Khemir presents a radically different view of Islamic culture than the one usually depicted in western media. Filmed in Tunisia and Iran and filled with enchanting stories, breathtaking images and haunting music, this profound fairytale shows us the tolerant, friendly, loving and wise aspects of open-hearted desert dwellers and their ancient storytelling traditions.



NACER KHEMIR

Nacer Khemir, the director of *Bab'Aziz*, is an award-winning filmmaker whose previous works include *Les Baliseurs du Désert* (Wanderers of the Desert), awarded the Grand Prix of the Festival des Trois Continents, and *Le Collier Perdu de la Colombe* (The Dove's Lost Necklace), which won the Special Jury Prize at the prestigious Locarno Film Festival in 1991.

TALK AND FILM

Bab'Aziz: The Prince Who Contemplated His Soul

SACHIKO MURATA

Sachiko Murata, Ph.D., completed a Ph.D. in Persian literature at Tehran University in 1971 and was the first woman and the first non-Muslim to enroll in its theology department where she obtained a degree in Islamic jurisprudence. Since 1983 she has taught religious studies at Stony Brook and has published many scholarly articles as well as several books, including: *The Tao of Islam: A Sourcebook on Gender Relationships in Islamic Thought*, and *Chinese Gleams of Sufi Light*.



TALK

Ibn 'Arabi in Dialogue with the Confucian Tradition

WORKSHOP

Ibn 'Arabi and the Confucian Tradition

