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Shaykh al Akbar Muhyi Din Ibn 'Arabi

Good News!

English Translation of the *Meccan Revelations* now available

Alhamdulillah, we are pleased to announce that twelve of the thirty-seven books of Ibn al-Arabi's greatest work *al-Futuhāt al-Makkiyah*, the Openings of Makkah have now been translated and are available in English as a complete translation (not as excerpts of the work).

What is the Futuhāt al Makkiyya

The *Futūḥāt al-Makkīya* is a magnum opus of over 10,000 pages, written by the *Shaykh al Akbar*, Muhyi Din Ibn al-'Arabī (1165–1240), known as the Greatest Teacher; sometimes in his own hand but mostly dictated to a circle of friends. It records Ibn al-'Arabī's description of his extraordinary vision of his encounter with an Angelic Being, The Youth, while circling the Kaa'ba in Mecca and his account of the experience and all its ramifications. Although the work has been described as a vast compendium, it is much more than that. It is above all an integral transcription of a complex, wholly palpable, experienced vision.

Despite its clear provenance as a completely accurate work, from the hand and mind of its transcriber, and its reputation through the centuries as the most significant and profound reflection of Islamic thought, the *Futuhāt al-Makkiyah* has never been translated from the original classical Arabic in its entirety. The first complete critical edition of twelve volumes was produced in 2010 by Abd al-Aziz Sultan al-Mansoub, after eleven years of intense study of the original manuscripts. From 2012 Dr. Eric Shu'ayb Winkel has been exclusively working on this project in order to produce the first complete translation into English of the *Futuhāt*.

The *Futuhāt al-Makkiyah* is no conventional religious or philosophical text; it is in a class by itself and totally unique. Although the work has been described as a vast collection of "metaphysics, cosmology, spiritual anthropology, psychology, and jurisprudence," it is first an integral description of a vision. In order to depict what he saw, Ibn al-'Arabi draws on different kinds of language: legal and poetic, geometric and theological.

Because these languages are difficult, and especially so for readers removed by eight centuries in time, scholars tend to emphasize the difficulty, even impossibility, of translation - or even conveying - this text (especially without omitting troublesome passages or references). Thus scholarly presentations are limited to excerpts and selections. The translator has benefitted from some of the top Arabic language experts,

including Hany Ibrahim, Karim Crow, Pablo Beneito, and Atif Khalil. The critical editor Sidi al-Mansoub has also been very generous with his time and assistance.

Alhamdulillah, all twelve volumes are now available from Sufi Books of Broken Hill, individually or as a complete set. Go to sufibooks.com.au to view and purchase these wonderful books.



About the translator:

Dr. Eric Winkel has studied the *Futuhāt al-Makkiyah* over 23 years. During his tenure as Senior Research Fellow at the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (Malaysia), he explored connections between Ibn al-‘Arabī’s vision and mathematics and physics developed after the 19th century. The mystical, strange world Ibn al-‘Arabī describes may be read as also the strange realm of quantum physics and higher-dimensional, and fractal dimensional, topographies. Since 2012, the writer has been translating the *Futuhāt al-Makkiyah*, intended to be the first complete, as well as most accurate and contemporary, translation into English of this masterwork, a project of at least seven years, *Insha’Allah*.