

Mysticism and philosophy in al-Andalus: Ibn Masarra, Ibn al-'Arabi and the Isma ili tradition

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Abstrak

Muslim Spain gave rise to two unusual figures in the mystical tradition of Islam: Ibn Masarra (269/883-319/931) and Ibn al-Arabi (560/1165-638/1240). Representing, respectively, the beginning and the pinnacle of Islamic mysticism in al-Andalus, Ibn Masarra and Ibn al-Arabi embody in their writings a type of mystical discourse which is quite different from the Sufi discourse that evolved in the Islamic east during the 9th-12th centuries.

In *Mysticism and Philosophy in al-Andalus*, Michael Ebstein points to the Isma ili tradition as one possible source which helped shape the distinct intellectual world from which both Ibn Masarra and Ibn al-Arabi derived. By analyzing their writings and the works of various Isma ili authors, Michael Ebstein unearths the many links that connect the thought of Ibn Masarra and Ibn al-Arabi to the Isma ili tradition.