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**ABSTRACT**

**Reaching the Truth by Means of Sharia: Study on Ibn ‘Arabi’s Thought**

*Meraih Hakekat Melalui Syari’at: Telaah Pemikiran Syeikh al-Akbar Ibn Arabi*

Originally a Master’s thesis for the Department of Islamic Studies, McGill University, this book discusses *fiqh* and Ibn ‘Arabi. The first section is a biography of Ibn ‘Arabi, highlighting his understanding of sharia and his debates with other scholars. The second and third sections explain how Ibn ‘Arabi engaged with sharia, as law and norm, as well as outlining his view of Islamic jurisprudence in his monumental *al-Futuhat al-Makkiya*. The book concludes with a summary and two appendices on the relation between sharia, *fiqh* and spirituality; and the Islamic jurisprudence of Ibn ‘Arabi both written by Eric Winkel, also the author of the book’s introduction.

The book explains the need to understand not only the textual provisions of Sharia but also the philosophical, spiritual, and moral values that make it adaptable to social change. *Haqiqa* and sharia are not to be contrasted: both are integral and mutually reinforcing. Sharia integrates the spiritual and legal aspects of Islam and becomes the means by which Muslims attain *haqiqa.* Scholars seeking to show how sharia can be studied against a background of diverging opinions will benefit from this book.

Zaenul Mahmudi