

The experience of revelation and the notion of imagination according to Ibn-Al-Arabi

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(Date of Receipt: 24 September 2016; Date of Acceptance: 14 December 2016)

Abstract

According to Ibn-Al-Arabi, the conditioned world or detached imagination is a presence of the graded divine presences in which both the material and non-material worlds appear. Perceiving such an appearance is possible through formal unveiling, because the creatures that appear in this realm, have both the delicacy of the non-material and the potentiality to become sensible like material things. Perceiving these creatures depends on the eternal hexeity of a given individual and his/her essential requirements. Nevertheless, such an actualization is not distorted by what was already believed or possessed, and is independent of them. This idea stands in contrast to other ideas that either support pure abstraction of truth (such as Schleiermacher's view) or pure mentality (such as Gadamer's view). Therefore, the question of the imaginary and ideal perception of revelation is bound to the recognition of and a belief in a realm of existence, in which paradoxes come together, and despite the reconciliation between subjectivity and objectivity, it benefits from complete objectivity.

Keywords: appearance, embodiment, eternal hexeity imagination, idea, religious experience, revelation, unveiling.

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