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Chittick, William C. **The Sufi path of knowledge: Ibn al-Ārabi's metaphysics of imagination.** State University of New York, 1989. 478p bibl indexes ISBN 0-88706-884-7, \$74.50; ISBN 0-88706-885-5 pbk, \$24.50

For those who delighted in the recent English translation of *Fusus al-hikam* (*The Bezels of Wisdom*, tr. by R.W.J. Austin, 1980), this rendition into English of Ibn al-Arabi's companion work, *al-Futuhāt al-makkiya* (*Meccan Openings*), will be at once welcome and useful. Unlike *Bezels*, which fills fewer than 200 printed pages, *Openings* totals a projected 17,000 pages in the ongoing critical edition of the Arabic text. Its 560 chapters constitute, in Chittick's words, "a vast encyclopedia of the Islamic sciences within the context of *tawhid*, the profession of God's Unity that forms the core of Islam." After an insightful introduction to scholarship on Ibn al-Arabi, followed by a comprehensive overview of his thought, Chittick sets out generous excerpts from *Openings* under six topical headings: theology, ontology, epistemology, hermeneutics, soteriology, and consummation. The metaphysical imagination of Ibn al-Arabi is challenging, but Chittick rises to the challenge and offers all students of Islam a stunning summation of *tawhid* by its foremost interpreter. Recommended for graduate and undergraduate students as well as community college students and general readers.—*B. B. Lawrence, Duke University*

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