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Chittick, William C. The self-disclosure of God: principles of Ibn

Al-Arabi's cosmology. State University of New York, 1998. 483p bibl indexes afp ISBN 0-7914-3403-6, \$74.50

This volume follows Chittick's <u>The Sufi Path of Knowledge</u> (CH, Oct'90). Both present, in excellent English translations, extended passages from Ibn al-Arabi's great work The Meccan Revelations, with illuminating commentary by Chittick. Although the previous volume dealt with metaphysical and mystical themes, this volume focuses on cosmological principles, though portions of part 1, "God and the Cosmos," comprise additional texts and commentary on the divine nature and its manifestation, and also sections on veiling and the human self. Part 2, "The Order of the Worlds," provides a fascinating overview of Ibn al-Arabi's complex account of the structure of reality, understood as the dialectical relation between the transcendent and immanent. Part 3, "The Structure of the Microcosm," examines human nature as microcosm, namely, the nature of spirit and body, the rational soul, and the soul's other faculties. Like its predecessor, this volume will be a valuable resource for scholars and students because of the extensive translations and informative commentary. All who use these marvelous volumes owe thanks for the 70 pages of indexes supplied by the author. Highly recommended for any serious student of Sufi mystical philosophy. Undergraduate; graduate; faculty. - J. Bussanich, University of New Mexico