

CHOICE  
April 1995 Vol.32 No. 8  
HUMANITIES  
Philosophy

32-4426<sup>~</sup> BP80 94-17044 CIP  
Chittick, William C. **Imaginal worlds: Ibn al-'Arabī  
and the problem of religious diversity.** State  
University of New York, 1994. 208p bibl indexes afp  
ISBN 0-7914-2249-6, \$57.50

This welcome volume from the most eminent English-language interpreter and translator of the great Islamic mystical philosopher Ibn al-'Arabī (1165-1240) is the sequel to his The Sufi Path of Knowledge (CH, Oct'90). Like its predecessor, this volume is valuable alone for the many translated passages from Ibn al-'Arabī's masterpiece, Meccan Revelations, which are organized around three interrelated themes: (1) the character traits and cognitive state of the Perfect Man; (2) the fascinating but bewildering topography of Ibn al-'Arabī's worlds of the transcendent imagination, their relationships to the states of human souls after death, and the correspondences between these supraphysical realms and the illumined souls who inhabit them; (3) Ibn al-'Arabī's views on religious diversity, as expressed through his complex views on the levels of belief and the unique features of individual prophets and revelations. This book is praiseworthy not only for its scholarly excellence but also because it presents Ibn al-'Arabī's mystical anthropology as a beacon for those looking to transcend "the impasses of modern and postmodern thought." Undergraduate; graduate; faculty; general. - J. Bussanich, University of New Mexico