

## FROM THE EDITOR

The central theme of the current issue — as the reader must have already noticed — is “Ibn Arabi and His School.” It is our immense pleasure that many outstanding experts in the Akbarian thought have kindly contributed their materials, so the section is particularly large and occupies approximately one third of the total volume. Along with research articles, it includes several new translations of Ibn Arabi’s texts.

The second section is devoted to non-Akbarian trends of Sufism. It includes several articles on less known Sufi figures who, nevertheless, have played an important role in the history of Sufism.

It is followed by a section on Arab Peripateticism. It is by no means out of place: many Sufi authors — including Ibn Arabi — did read the works of Peripatetics and were inspired by them.<sup>1</sup> The imagined incompatibility of Sufism and Peripateticism (*falsafa*) only existed in popular opinion — and, even there, it was not infrequently questioned, as certain popular legends testify.<sup>2</sup>

The section on Suhrawardi and the philosophy of Illumination includes several articles, which we initially intended to publish in the second issue, devoted mostly to the Shaykh al-Ishraq. For technical reasons, we had to move them to the current issue.

The three following sections are much smaller as regards their volume but by no means less significant, since, just like the bigger ones, they consist of contributions of first-rate specialists in their particular fields.

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The main theme of the fourth issue, as it was already announced, will be the Ismaili philosophy and the philosophical thought of Nasir al-Din Tusi.

The contents of the first two issues are now also available electronically ([www.iph.ras.ru/ishraq1.htm](http://www.iph.ras.ru/ishraq1.htm) and [www.iph.ras.ru/ishr2.htm](http://www.iph.ras.ru/ishr2.htm)).

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In conclusion, on behalf of the editorial board, the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Iranian Institute of Philosophy and the Islamic Cultural Research Foundation, I would like to sincerely thank all authors of the current issue for their most valuable contributions.

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<sup>1</sup> For example, Ibn Arabi’s works — and, indeed, his very terminology — testify to his intimate acquaintance with the thought of Ibn Bajja. I intend to discuss this in detail in a separate article.

<sup>2</sup> I have in mind here, in particular, the well-known (and well-invented) tale of the three day long meeting, which allegedly took place between Ibn Sina and Abu Sa’id Abu ’l-Khayr.