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**Philosophy in the Islamic World**

**The Great Conversation Spreads Out**

**Essential Points**

* + - **al-Kindī (the Philosopher of the Arabs)**
    - Taking Greek philosophy seriously as a vehicle of “truth”
    - Reconciliation of philosophy with religion

Philosophy provides additional knowledge to what religion has already revealed

* + - One and many: the very idea

Uses it to show God is the eternal, unitary creator of the universe

*Reductio ad absurdum*

Contra Parmenides argues that the one and the many underpins the physical world

* + - Neoplatonic view of God that agrees with the Islamic teaching that God is one
    - Eternity and Createdness of the universe
    - Conception of the universals

The soul grasps a universal only when it receives it from the Active Intellect

* **al-Fārābī (the Second Master)**
* The Ultimate Happiness
* Reason and Religion

Theoretical things and voluntary things

Only philosophy provides genuine knowledge

* Religion and philosophy do not conflict as they teach the same truth in different ways
* Appropriation of the Neoplatonic idea of emanation

Ten celestial intellects

* Active Intellect

Contains all the Aristotelian forms

Plays a crucial role in the perception of universals

* Certitude, absolute certitude, and opinion
* The highest form of knowledge involves scientific demonstration of truths about universals
* The role of the imaginative faculty in perception
* **Avicenna (the Preeminent Master)**
* Reforming Aristotelian *hylomorphism*
* Essence-existence distinction

Everything (except God) has both an existence and an essence

* God, the Necessary Existent

Proves the Qur’anic God through philosophical arguments

* Modalities of Existence

Possibility, impossibility and necessity

* The possible existent (necessary through the other)
* The universe is both eternal and created
* The soul and its faculties

Expands on the Aristotelian notion of the soul

The soul has three parts: the vegetative, animal, and rational

Denial of the pre-existence of the individual soul

The individual soul survives death

* The Flying Man Argument

First-person perspective

Shows the immateriality and distinctiveness of the soul

* Methodic experience as a rigorous epistemic tool
* Theory of intuition
* **al-Ghazālī**
* Knowledge and its certitude
* The senses do no provide reliable knowledge
* Skepticism and refuge in Sufism
* Mystical practices can provide true knowledge and experience of God
* Refutation of the philosophers

Takes on the philosophers concerning the resurrection of the body, the createdness of the universe, and God’s knowledge of particulars

* Theory of causation (does not fully deny causality)

Ghazālian occasionalism