

SELFIES AND SUFIS

THE ALCHEMY OF HUMAN HAPPINESS ACCORDING TO IBN 'ARABI

A TALK BY STEPHEN HIRTENSTEIN

SYDNEY MECHANICS' SCHOOL OF ARTS (SMSA), 280 PITT STREET, SYDNEY,
6.30PM, THURSDAY, 19 OCTOBER, 2017.

The quest for happiness lies at the very heart of human life, whether we believe in religion or not. This talk will explore the notion of human happiness in Sufism, and its relation to 'spiritual alchemy', the transformation of the soul. In particular, Stephen will focus on a long chapter in the *Futuhat al-Makkiyya* of Ibn 'Arabi (d. 1240) which discusses two primary methods of realisation, one intellectual and rational, the other mystical and cardiac.

Stephen Hirtenstein is a senior editor for the *Encyclopaedia Islamica*, editor of the *Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society*, author and co-owner of Anqa Publishing which is dedicated to the publication in English of works by Ibn 'Arabi and his school. He directs the MIAS Archiving Project which has been compiling a database and digital copies of Ibn 'Arabi's historic manuscripts from libraries around the world. Stephen will be reading from his latest book, *The Alchemy of Human Happiness*. This is his first visit to Australia.

Free. All welcome. Refreshments provided.

Stephen Hirtenstein's talk is presented in collaboration with Beshara Australia, Anqa Publishing and the Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi Society.

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