

Muhyiddin Ibn ‘Arabi Society

MIAS Education Online Course



Ocean Journey: Course 2

**“With which eye do I see Him”**  
**Exploring imagination in *The Meccan Openings***

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**Course title**

**“With which eye do I see Him”: exploring imagination in *The Meccan Openings*”**

## Course length

10 weeks – 90min

## Contact details

Email: [education.uk@ibnarabisociety.org](mailto:education.uk@ibnarabisociety.org)

## Who is the course for?

This course is suitable for anyone who has an interest in Sufism in general, and in Ibn Arabi in particular. *No previous knowledge* of Ibn Arabi's writings is needed, though it is helpful.

## Course overview

In this course we will explore the key aspects of Ibn Arabi's creative imagination (*khayal*) and the relation between such a concept and the *barzakh* (isthmus or intermediate world). We will read a selection of passages from *The Meccan Openings*, with a particular focus on Chapter 63.

## Methodology

Creativity is integral to the human being. Undeniably, our imagination is a force that impacts our daily life. The notion of imagination occupies a significant position in Ibn Arabi's teachings since the Divine Imagination constitutes the very force that inspired the Great Master's works. As Henry Corbin succinctly puts it: "To the initial act of the Creator imagining the world corresponds the creature imagining his world, imagining the worlds, his God, his symbols." Such a correlation between the Divine act of Creation and His creatures is an open invitation to those who wish to explore the realm of imagination.

Thus, in this course, we invite you to dive into Ibn Arabi's world of imagination. You will have the opportunity to connect your appreciation of Ibn Arabi's text with your own creative expression such as poetry, writing, storytelling, drawing, painting and music etc. Such an interaction echoes James Morris' observation on "the remarkably active approach which Ibn Arabi expects and constantly demands of his truly qualified and spiritually 'ambitious' readers, those who begin to interact with his work with the appropriate intentions and preparation." (source: <https://ibnarabisociety.org/how-to-study-the-futuh-at-james-morris/>).

## Course learning aims

1. Identify the key aspects of Ibn Arabi's imagination (*khayal*).

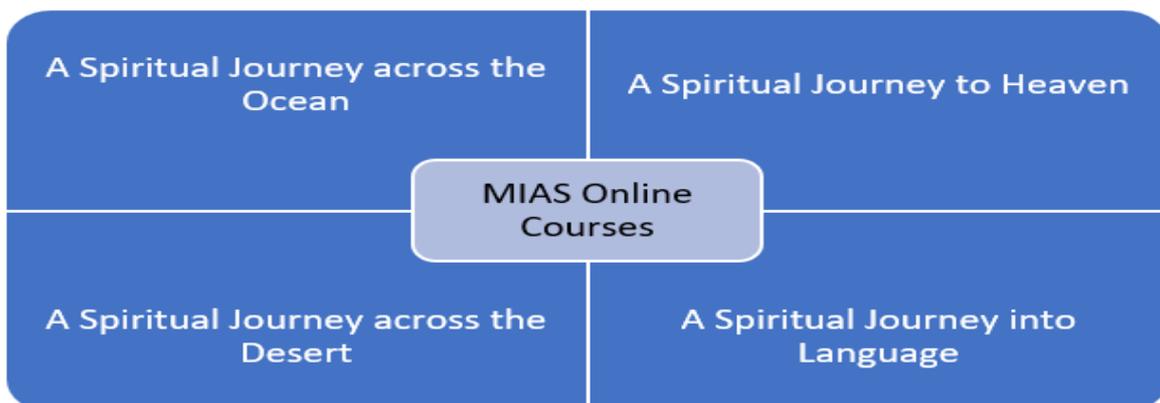
2. Develop a familiarity with Ibn Arabi's central concepts such as vision and the *barzakh*.
3. Explore personal creativity and its relationship to spirituality.

### Course outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you can achieve any of the possible outcomes below:

### Programme overview

Our online courses are composed of four journeys (see below). Each journey also comprises four courses. The current course "With which eye do I see Him" is part of the journey across the Ocean. For more details on the available courses, refer to MIAS website <https://ibnarabisociety.org/> or contact Richard Twinch: [education.uk@ibnarabisociety.org](mailto:education.uk@ibnarabisociety.org)



### Instructional strategies

Instructional strategies include mini-lectures, shared reading, creative forms of expression and group discussions.

### Course outline

**Week 1** - Introduction to the course

**Week 2** - Reading and group discussion

**Week 3** - Imagination, vision and the *barzakh* (isthmus)

**Week 4** - Creative encounters with Ibn 'Arabi

**Week 5** - Reflection on the journey

**Week 6** - Creative encounters with Ibn 'Arabi

**Week 7** - Reading and group discussion

**Week 8** - Reading and group discussion

**Week 9** - Creative encounters with Ibn 'Arabi

**Week 10** - Disembarking