

Muhyiddin Ibn ‘Arabi Society

## MIAS Education Online Course



Ocean Journey: Course 3

### **“Embark therein: from Noah’s Ark to Adam’s fall”**

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### Course title

“Embark therein: from Noah’s Ark to Adam’s fall”

### 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 multi-layered meanings of the journey in Ibn Arabi’s teachings. We will read a selection of passages from Ibn Arabi’s *The Secrets of Voyaging*.

### Methodology

In this course we will explore the multi-layered meanings of the journey with a particular focus on Noah’s and Adam’s voyages in *The Secrets of Voyaging*. There are of course several ways of reading and interpreting Ibn Arabi’s texts. Ibn Arabi himself states “Know that the same thing can have different aspects” (*The Secrets of Voyaging* 2015: p. 115). What we propose in this course is a hermeneutic model of interpretation which allows these multiple aspects of reading to co-exist, without necessarily ascribing one single meaning to the concept of the journey. Drawing both on Paul Ricœur’s theory of interpretation and Ibn Arabi’s esoteric hermeneutics, this course combines two schools of thought, seeking to place emphasis on the interactive engagement between the world of the text, the reader’s world and an experiential access to the ‘secrets of voyaging’.

### Course learning aims

1. Identify the key aspects of Ibn Arabi’s journey (*isfar*).
2. Develop a familiarity with Ibn Arabi’s central concepts such as unveiling and the unseen.
3. Discuss the significance of the reader’s interpretation in achieving a better understanding of Ibn Arabi’s spiritual world.

### 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 comprises four courses. The current course “Embark therein: from Noah’s Ark to Adam’s fall” forms 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

This course combines lecture instructions with group discussions and individual readings. Instructional strategies include mini-lectures, textual analysis, guided individual reflection and discussion.

### Course outline

**Week 1** - Introduction to the course

**Week 2** - The voyage of Noah

**Week 3** - The voyage of Noah

**Week 4** - The voyage of Noah

**Week 5** - Reflection on the journey

**Week 6** - The voyage of Adam

**Week 7** - The voyage of Adam

**Week 8** - The voyage of Adam

**Week 9** - The secrets of the journey

**Week 10** - Disembarking