



The Arabic Influences on Early Modern Occult Philosophy (Palgrave Historical Studies in Witchcraft and Magic)

Liana Saif

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The Arabic Influences on Early Modern Occult Philosophy introduces Arabic medieval astrological and magical theories formulated mainly in *The Great Introduction to the Judgements of the Stars* by Abu Ma'shar al-Balkhi (787-886), *De radiis* by Ya'qub ibn Ishaq al-Kindi (801-873), and the *Picatrix* by Maslama al-Qurtubi (d. 964). Liana Saif investigates their influence on early modern occult philosophy, particularly the works of Marsilio Ficino (1433-1499), Pico della Mirandola (1463-1494), and John Dee (1527-c. 1608). The Arabic theories of astral influences provided a naturalistic explanation of astral influences and magical efficacy based on Aristotelian notions of causality. In addition, this book explores how this causality was reconciled with astrological hermeneutics, Neoplatonic emanationism, and Platonic eschatology, thus demonstrating the complexity of early modern occult philosophy and its syncretism.

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