

English Summary

The present study consists of two main parts, namely translation and commentary of the philosophical-mystical recital *Hayy ibn Yaqdhān (The Living, Son of the Vigilant)*. The author is a significant philosopher of the Islamic East Ibn Sīnā (980-1037), whose biography is a part of this study. Although this treatise is not his most famous work, it belongs for its strong narrative aspects, aesthetic values and depth of the symbolism to brilliant writings of classical Arabic literature.

The commentary is divided into chapters that correspond to the themes contained in the treatise. The main motive represents the journey of human intellect, who is guided by the Active intellect personified in the figure of The Living, son of the Vigilant towards a higher knowledge. Once the rational soul has realized its angelic potential sets on an intellectual journey into the world of the separated forms, which is finally crowned with a vision of God. Ibn Sīnā presents through this symbolic story central elements of his teachings, namely the theory of intellect, psychology and epistemology, the theory of matter and form, cosmology, emanation theory, angelology and theology. The secret motive and philosophical-mystical message of the treatise is love, which is as an ascending principle of the creation opposite to emanation.

The last chapter describes the work as a piece of the Arabic literary heritage and focuses on its literary form, symbolic language and its influence on other important medieval Muslim thinkers.