

Contents

1. Introduction, 3

2. Greek and Arabic Antecedents, 7

Stages of Human Intellect, 9

The Kind of Entity That the Active Intellect Is, 13

The Active Intellect as a Cause of Human Thought, 18

The Active Intellect as a Cause of Existence, 29

Conjunction with the Active Intellect; Immortality, 34

3. Alfarabi on Emanation, the Active Intellect, and Human Intellect, 44

Al-Madīna al-Fāḍila and *al-Siyāsa al-Madaniyya*, 44

Alfarabi's *Philosophy of Aristotle*, 63

The *Risāla fī al-ʿAql*, 65

Alfarabi's Commentary on the *Nicomachean Ethics*, 70

Concluding Note, 73

4. Avicenna on Emanation, the Active Intellect, and Human Intellect, 74

The Emanation of the Universe; the Active Intellect
as a Cause of the Existence of the Sublunar World, 74

Stages of Human Intellect; the Active Intellect
as the Cause of Human Thought, 83

Imagination, Cogitation, Insight, 95

Conjunction and Immortality, 103

Prophecy, 116

Summary, 124

5. Reverberations of the Theories of Alfarabi and Avicenna, 127

Avicenna's Islamic Successors, 127

Reverberations in Medieval Jewish Philosophy, 180

Reverberations in Scholastic Philosophy, 209

Summary, 218

6. Averroes on Emanation and on the Active Intellect as a Cause of Existence, 220

General Considerations, 220

The Emanation of the Universe, 223

The Active Intellect as a Cause of Existence: Epitomes of the *Parva naturalia* and the *Metaphysics*, 232

The Active Intellect as a Cause of Existence:

The Commentary on *De generatione animalium*, 242

The Active Intellect as a Cause of Existence:

The Long Commentary on the *Metaphysics* and *Tahāfut al-Tahāfut (Destructio destructionum)*, 245

Summary, 254

7. Averroes on the Material Intellect, 258

Introduction, 258

The Epitome of the *De anima* and the *Epistle on the Possibility of Conjunction*, 265

A Minor Composition on Conjunction and the Middle Commentary on the *De anima*, 274

Averroes' Long Commentary on the *De anima* and his Commentary on Alexander's *De intellectu*, 282

Summary, 295

Averroes' Theories of Material Intellect as Reflected in Subsequent Jewish and Christian Thought, 298

8. Averroes on the Active Intellect as the Cause of Human Thought, 315

The Passage of the Human Intellect to Actuality, 315

The Possibility of Conjunction with the Active Intellect; Immortality, 321

Prophecy, 340

Averroes' Shifting Picture of the Universe and of Man's Place in It, 351