

## The Place of Physical World and its Connection to Humans, from the Point of View of Ibn Arabi and Meister Eckhart

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DOI: 10.22096/ek.2023.562612.1467

[Received Date: 23/04/2021 Acceptance Date: 30/09/2021]

### Abstract

Despite the fact that Ibn Arabi and Eckhart agree and are similar to each other in many principles, they differ in their emphasis on God's "analogy" and "purification". This difference of opinion, which at first seems insignificant compared to many of their common opinions, leads to a deep difference and even conflict between the thoughts of our two thinkers in the issue of "the place of physical world". Therefore, "the physical world" and its place can be considered as a problem that highlights the differences between Ibn Arabi's and Eckhart's views - in spite of all the similarities and consensus. Even common doctrines such as "the unity of existence" and "the creation of man in the image of God" cannot reduce the deep disagreement between Ibn Arabi and Eckhart on the issue of the place of the world. As it will be proven, Ibn Arabi uses these two teachings in order to sanctify the world and multitudes. But Eckhart interprets these two doctrines in a way that leads to disdain the universe and multitudes.

**Keywords:** multiplicity; image; analogy; purification; physical world; negative theology.

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