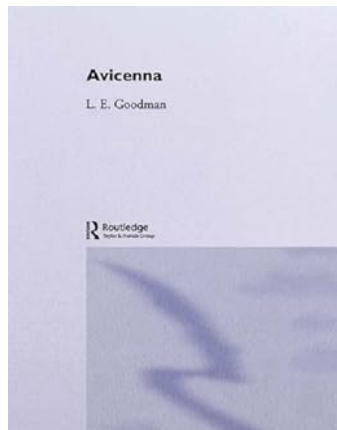


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"Goodman's splendid new book should be welcomed by all historians of philosophy as the best detailed introduction to the thought of the eminent Islamic philosopher Avicenna Especially fine is Goodman's lucid account of Avicenna's synthesis of the metaphysics of necessity and of contingency."

- "Choice

Synopsis

Of all the philosophers in the West, none, perhaps, is better known by name and less familiar in actual content of his ideas than the medieval Muslim philosopher, physician, princely minister and naturalist Abu Ali Ibn Sina, known since the days of the scholastics as Avicenna. In this lucid and witty book L.E. Goodman, himself a philosopher, and long known for his studies of Arabic thought, presents a factual, pithy and engaging account of Avicenna's philosophy. Setting the thinker in the context of his often turbulent times and tracing the roots and influences of Avicenna's ideas, Goodman offers a factual and credible philosophical portrait of one of the world's greatest metaphysicians. This book details Avicenna's account of being as a synthesis between the seemingly irreconcilable extremes of Aristotelian eternalism and the creationism of

monotheistic scripture. It examines Avicenna's distinctive theory of knowledge, his ideas about immortality and individuality, including the famous Floating Man argument, his contributions to logic, and his probing thoughts on rhetoric and poetics.

Taking advantage of the latest scholarship, Goodman's book is more than a philosophic appreciation. In every section it considers the abiding value of Avicenna's contributions, assaying his thought against the responses of his contemporaries and successors but also against our current philosophical understanding -- Dieser Text bezieht sich auf eine andere Ausgabe