

IBN SINA'S PHILOSOPHICAL THOUGHT: CONTRIBUTIONS AND INFLUENCES IN ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY

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Abstract

The philosophical thought of Ibn Sina (Avicenna) contributed greatly to the development of Islamic philosophy by integrating various disciplines such as metaphysics, logic, psychology, and medicine into a systematic framework. His concepts such as “Wujud Wajib” explain the existence of God as an absolute entity, providing an important basis for subsequent philosophers. His influence can be seen in the scientific method that prioritizes reason and empirical observation. Ibn Sina's intellectual legacy connected the Greek tradition of thought with Islamic teachings, had a broad impact on the development of philosophy in both the Islamic world and medieval Europe, and became an important reference for subsequent generations in the pursuit of harmony between science and spirituality.

Keywords: Thought, Philosophy of Ibn Sina, Contribution, Influence in Islamic Philosophy.

Introduction

Ibn Sina, known in the West as Avicenna, was one of the leading practitioners of philosophy and science in the Middle Ages. Born in 980 in Bukhara, now part of Uzbekistan, Ibn Sina not only made his mark on history through his contributions in the field of medicine, but also through his deep and wide-ranging thoughts in philosophy (Barkaoui et al., 2022).

Ibn Sina lived in an era where ancient Greek thought, especially Aristotle, had a significant impact on the intellectual development of the Islamic World. He not only translated and commented on Aristotle's works, but also integrated them with Islamic teachings and new concepts that he developed himself. With a systematic and coherent approach, Ibn Sina managed to harmonize the Greek philosophical tradition with Islamic beliefs, creating a unique and influential new synthesis (H et al., 2022).

His works, such as *Kitab Al-Shifa* and *Kitab Al-Qanun fi al-Tibb*, have become major references in various disciplines. *Kitab Al-Shifa*, for example, is an encyclopedia of philosophy and science that covers logic, mathematics, physics, and metaphysics. Meanwhile, *Kitab al-Qanun fi al-Tibb* became the standard in medical science for centuries in the East and West (Tabti et al., 2023).

Ibn Sina's thoughts on ontology, or the study of being, as well as epistemology, or the study of knowledge, have left a deep mark on Islamic philosophy. His concepts of “wajib al-wujud” (obligatory existence) and “mumkin al-wujud” (possible existence) as well as his theories on emanation and the soul greatly influenced later Islamic thinkers such as Al-Ghazali, Ibn Rushd (Averroes), and Ibn Tufail. Even in Europe, Ibn Sina's works were translated into Latin and influenced scholastic philosophy, especially through thinkers such as Thomas Aquinas and Albertus Magnus (S et al., 2021).

However, despite his broad and profound influence, the study of Ibn Sina's thought is often abstract and lacking in depth. The lack of in-depth understanding of Ibn Sina's contribution and influence has led to the need for comprehensive research (Majoudi et al., 2022). This research aims to explore Ibn Sina's philosophical thought, his significant contributions, and the impact of his thought on Islamic philosophy and the world at large.

This research will not only help understand the history of Islamic philosophy and thought, but also open up opportunities to apply the rigorous principles of Ibn Sina's thought in a modern context, whether in philosophy, science, or ethics.

Research Methods

The study in this research uses the literature method. The literature research method is a research approach that involves collecting, evaluating, and analyzing written sources to answer research questions or understand a particular topic in depth. This process begins with the identification of relevant sources such as books, journal articles, dissertations, reports, and other documents that have relevance to the topic under study (Hidayat, 2009); (Afiyanti, 2008). The researcher then assesses the credibility and validity of these sources, identifying key themes, patterns, and existing knowledge gaps. The results of this literature research are often compiled in the form of a literature review, which not only summarizes existing knowledge but also provides a theoretical context for further research, helps formulate hypotheses, and directs the research design and methodology to be applied (Syahrizal & Jailani, 2023).

Results and Discussion

Ibn Sina's Main Contributions in Islamic Philosophy

Ibn Sina, or Avicenna in the Western tradition, is one of the greatest philosophers in the history of Islamic civilization who made significant contributions in various scientific fields, especially philosophy. One of his main contributions was the development of a theory of metaphysics that was heavily influenced by Aristotle, but with adjustments and innovations that are relevant in the Islamic context. Ibn Sina introduced the concepts of existence (wujud) and essence (mahiyah) that became the foundation for the discussion of Islamic metaphysics. He asserted that existence is not

just an attribute attached to an essence, but also has an independent role as a reality that can be analyzed philosophically (H et al., 2022).

Ibn Sina is also famous for the concept of “Obligatory Form” (wajib al-wujud) and “Possible Form” (mumkin al-wujud). According to him, the obligatory form is an entity whose existence is not caused by other entities, namely God, while the possible form is an entity whose existence depends on external factors. Through his analysis of existence and essence, Ibn Sina succeeded in formulating a profound cosmological argument about the existence of God, which later became one of the favorite arguments of Muslim and Christian philosophers in the discussion of divine existence (Bhikha et al., 2023).

In epistemology, Ibn Sina made a significant contribution through his theory of reason and soul. He distinguishes human reason into various levels, ranging from potential reason (aql hayulani), actualized reason (aql bil-malakah), effective reason (aql bil-fil), to active reason (aql mustafad). According to Ibn Sina, active reason is the highest stage in the process of achieving knowledge, where humans can connect themselves with universal reason which is also considered as revelation or inspiration. This view places reason as a fundamental means of understanding reality and opens the door to the relationship between ratio and revelation in Islamic philosophy (Bahadi et al., 2024).

In addition to the above contributions, Ibn Sina is also known for his work integrating philosophy with medical science, where he combined empirical knowledge and metaphysical theories to understand health and disease. In his monumental work, “The Canon of Medicine”, Ibn Sina not only makes medical diagnosis and treatment, but also discusses aspects of the philosophy of health, which includes the body and soul in a harmonious condition. This holistic understanding reflects his philosophical view that sees the body and soul as a unity that must be maintained together (Ezahra et al., 2021).

Ibn Sina's influence in Islamic philosophy is so widespread in subsequent thought, both in the East and in the West. Philosophers such as Al-Ghazali, while criticizing some aspects of Ibn Sina's thought, nevertheless drew on many of the key concepts he developed. In the West, scholastic philosophers such as Thomas Aquinas were also inspired by Ibn Sina's works. Overall, Ibn Sina's major contributions to Islamic philosophy formed a rich and complex intellectual foundation, which continued to influence the development of philosophy, theology and science in the following centuries (Korsakov, 2022).

Furthermore, it is important to see how Ibn Sina's ideas were adopted and further developed by later thinkers. For example, Al-Farabi and Al-Ghazali were critical of some aspects of Ibn Sina's philosophy, but also recognized and utilized some others. Ibn Sina succeeded in bequeathing a rational methodology to the Islamic philosophical tradition, which later became a distinctive feature in the thinking of Muslim philosophers and theologians. Ibn Sina's works were also translated into Latin in Europe

and became an important reference for scholastics in the Middle Ages. Through this route, his influence reached far beyond the Islamic world, exerting a significant influence on the development of Western thought (Rosul, 2023).

In the field of metaphysics, Ibn Sina's analysis of the concepts of “existence” and “essence” succeeded in formulating an important conceptual distinction between entities that exist and the properties possessed by those entities. This thinking is not only relevant in theological discussions about the nature of God, but has also been highly influential in the development of general metaphysics. The concept of “Obligatory Being” that he developed became a strong argument in natural theology and Islamic metaphysics regarding the dependence of everything on God as the first cause (Roji & Husarri, 2021).

In epistemology, Ibn Sina's classification of reason shows the depth of his analysis of how humans gain knowledge. The transition process from potential reason to active reason shows that knowledge is not only obtained through sensory experience, but also requires intellectual and divine processes. This thought became the basis for a broader discussion on the interrelationship between reason, revelation and intuition in Islamic and western philosophy (Rajagopal, 2024).

In the fields of psychology and medicine, Ibn Sina's works emphasized the importance of the interaction between body and soul and how mental well-being has a direct impact on physical health. This holistic approach encouraged a broader understanding of health that involved a balance between physical, mental and spiritual aspects. “The Canon of Medicine,” which became a major reference in medical schools for centuries, demonstrates Ibn Sina's ability to combine different fields of knowledge, from empirical science to philosophy, in an effort to understand the human being as a whole (Razak et al., 2020).

In conclusion, Ibn Sina's main contribution to Islamic philosophy is his ability to integrate various traditions of thought, both from Ancient Greek philosophy, empirical knowledge, and Islamic teachings in a comprehensive and rational system. His works are not only important for the development of Islamic philosophy, but also have an impact that goes far beyond geographical and cultural boundaries. Ibn Sina successfully demonstrated that philosophy and science can go hand in hand, inspiring the next generation to continue advancing knowledge through an integrated and harmonious approach.

The Influence of Ibn Sina's Thought on the Western and Eastern Intellectual Worlds

The influence of Ibn Sina's thought on the Western and Eastern intellectual worlds is a phenomenon that reflects the historical trajectory of philosophy and science. In the Eastern world, especially in the Islamic tradition, Ibn Sina is known as one of the most influential philosophers. His works, such as “Ash-Syifa” and “Al-Qanun fi at-Tibb” (The Canon of Medicine), became standards in philosophical and medical education. His

thoughts on metaphysics and psychology were absorbed and developed by philosophers such as Al-Ghazali and Al-Farabi, who although critical, still recognized the significance of his opinions in shaping the intellectual dialogue of the time (Azaoui et al., 2021).

In the Western world, Ibn Sina's works were translated into Latin during the Middle Ages, mainly through Jewish and Christian translators working in intellectual centers such as Toledo in Spain. These translations allowed scholastic figures such as Thomas Aquinas to engage with Avicennian (the Latin name for Ibn Sina) concepts, particularly in metaphysics. His views on essentialism and existentialism, as well as the notion of “Obligatory Being,” contributed significantly to European philosophical debates, becoming cornerstones in discussions regarding the nature of God and the relationship between reason and faith (Meryem et al., 2023).

In the field of medicine, Ibn Sina's “The Canon of Medicine” became the main medical reference in Europe until the Renaissance. Its systematic and comprehensive structure helped shape medical education in European universities. His approach of distinguishing between disease and treatment helped the development of a more structured clinical methodology, influencing the next generation of medical thinking (Elbarkaoui et al., 2023).

Meanwhile, in the East, regions such as Persia, India and the Arab world, Ibn Sina's work continues to inspire scientists and philosophers. His emphasis on the use of reason and observation as the basis of knowledge drove the development of science and technology in the Islamic golden era. His concepts in pharmacology and psychology influenced how Muslim scientists understood the relationship between body, mind, and soul, and many of these principles persist in medical practice and philosophy to this day (Majoudi et al., 2022).

Overall, Ibn Sina's influence is visible in the fabric of the history of human knowledge, bridging different intellectual traditions. With his integration of Greek philosophy and Islamic thought, and appreciation of empirical science, Ibn Sina paved the way for a cross-cultural dialogue that enriched the world's intellectual heritage. His views on rationality and the harmony between spiritual and scientific knowledge formed the foundation for a more holistic approach to science, which is still relevant today.

Conclusion

Ibn Sina's philosophical thought made a very significant contribution to the development of Islamic philosophy. As a polymath, Ibn Sina managed to integrate various disciplines, such as metaphysics, logic, psychology, and medicine, into a coherent and systematic framework. His works such as “Ash-Syifa” and “Al-Qanun fi at-Tibb” are not merely theoretical expositions, but also provide a practical basis used in medical education and practice. In metaphysics, Ibn Sina's concept of “Wajib Form” or

“Niscaya Wujud” explains the existence of God as an absolute entity and the center of all other existence, a view that inspired many later philosophers.

Ibn Sina's influence in Islamic philosophy is also reflected in the scientific method he developed, which emphasizes the use of reason and empirical observation as a way to achieve valid knowledge. This rationalistic approach influenced later philosophers, such as Al-Ghazali, although some of them also criticized some aspects of his thought. Nonetheless, Ibn Sina's contribution remains respected and an important reference in philosophical dialog among Muslim scholars.

Overall, Ibn Sina's contributions transcended time and geographical boundaries, forging intellectual links between the Islamic and Western worlds. His integration of the Greek tradition of thought, particularly that of Aristotle, with Islamic teachings, produced a rich and far-reaching synthesis. His intellectual legacy not only strengthened the foundations of Islamic philosophy but also profoundly influenced the development of medieval philosophy in Europe. His thought continues to be a source of inspiration and reflection for subsequent generations in their search for harmony between science and spirituality.

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