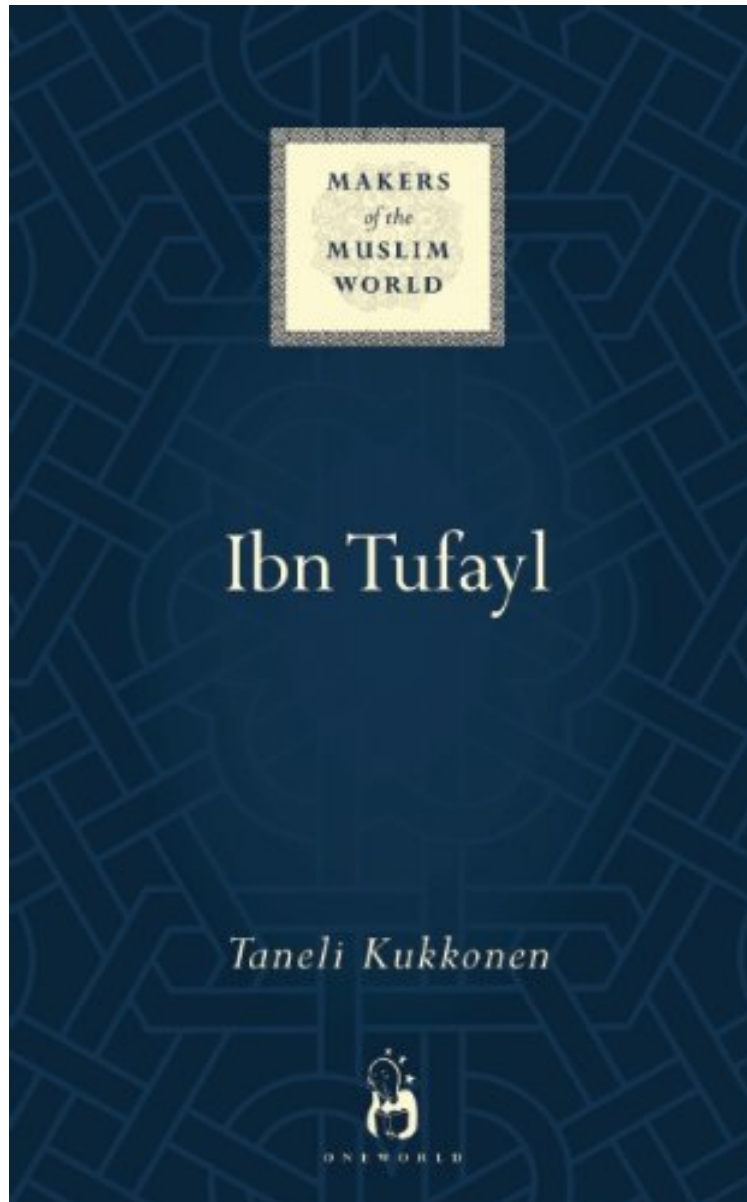


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# Ibn Tufayl: Living the Life of Reason (Makers of the Muslim World)

*Taneli Kukkonen*

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**Taneli Kukkonen : Ibn Tufayl: Living the Life of Reason (Makers of the Muslim World)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ibn Tufayl: Living the Life of Reason (Makers

of the Muslim World):

Ibn Tufayl (1105-1185) was an Andalusian courtier, philosopher, Sufi master, and royal physician to the Almohad Caliphs. He inspired the 12th-century Andalusian revolt against Ptolemaic astronomy and through his sponsorship he was also responsible for the career of the most renowned Aristotelian of medieval times, Abu al-Walid Ibn Rushd (the Latin Averroes). In Ibn Tufayl, we see an exemplar of the kind of versatile and pious scholar early Almohad culture wanted to cultivate. Ibn Tufayl's own intellectual outlook is preserved for us in *Hayy Ibn Yaqzan*, a philosophical romance that is one of the most beloved and best read pieces in all Arabic literature. A popular and often-copied work in early modern Europe, *Hayy* has for many come to represent what is distinctive of high classical Arabic philosophy. Ibn Tufayl sets one of the most famous Arabic philosophical works of all time in its historical and philosophical context: it paints a vivid portrait of the world as Ibn Tufayl saw it and as he wished for it to be seen.

'Taneli Kukkonen's study is not only a superb introduction to Ibn Tufayl and his work, but it also provides a succinct overview of Islamic philosophical thought at large...his exposition [is] admirably lucid and, indeed, entertaining.' *LA of Books* 'Scholars and students of Ibn Tufayl will enjoy Kukkonen's introduction. Indeed his observation that Ibn Tufayl's "casual asides and narrative detours can be just as fascinating to us as what he is ultimately driving at" may equally be made of his own book.' *Journal of the History of Philosophy* About the Author Taneli Kukkonen has held appointments at the Universities of Victoria, Jyväskylä, and Otago. He is currently a visiting professor in philosophy at New York University Abu Dhabi. He has published widely on topics in Arabic philosophy and the Aristotelian tradition.