

# Paradigm Shift On Thought Muslim Women`s Perspectives

Edited by:  
Dr Solehah Yaacob



IIUM Press

# **Paradigm Shift on Thought**

**Muslim Women's Perspectives**

**Edited by:**

**Solehah Yaacob**



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Published by:  
IIUM Press  
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2011  
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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Solehah Yaacob: Paradigm Shift on Thought

ISBN: 978-967-418-179-6

Member of Majlis Penerbitan Ilmiah Malaysia – MAPIM  
(Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

Printed by :  
**IIUM PRINTING SDN.BHD.**  
No. 1, Jalan Industri Batu Caves 1/3  
Taman Perindustrian Batu Caves  
Batu Caves Centre Point  
68100 Batu Caves  
Selangor Darul Ehsan  
Tel: +603-6188 1542 / 44 / 45 Fax: +603-6188 1543  
EMAIL: [iiumprinting@yahoo.com](mailto:iiumprinting@yahoo.com)

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## CHAPTER 6

### IBN AL-ARABI AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGIOUS

#### PLURALISM:

#### A CRITICAL EXAMINATION

HASLINA IBRAHIM

#### Introduction

The paper discusses Ibn Al-Arabi's esoteric approach, which is allegedly in support of the philosophy of religious pluralism. Ibn Al-Arabi's connection to philosophy however is debatable. Considering the unique and exclusive nature of esotericism, would religious pluralism be a compatible philosophy to resolve an exoteric problem posed by the existence of plural and diverse forms of religions? Above all, considering his voluminous works, how do we rightly understand *Ibn 'Arabī* and underscore his contributions in comprehending the diversity of religions?

#### IBN AL-ARABI AND THE ESOTERIC WISDOM

One who fails to appreciate *Ibn 'Arabī*'s esoteric method may have difficulties in understanding him accurately.<sup>1</sup> In the course of the

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<sup>1</sup> Among the Muslim scholars who rejected him were Ibn Taymiyyah and his followers. For rejections on *Ibn 'Arabī* refer to Burhān al-Dīn al-Buqa'ī (809-885 AH), *Masra' al-Tasawwuf Aw Tanbih al-Ghabiyyi Ila Takfir Ibn 'Arabī*, 'Abd al-