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NECESSARY EXISTENCE AND MONOTHEISM

*An Avicennian Account of the
Islamic Conception of Divine Unity*

Mohammad Saleh Zarepour

The University of Manchester



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Necessary Existence and Monotheism

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Abstract: Avicenna believes that God must be understood in the first place as the Necessary Existent (*wāğib al-wuğūd*). In his various works, he provides different versions of an ingenious argument for the existence of the Necessary Existent – the so-called Proof of the Sincere (*burhān al-ṣiddiqīn*) – and argues that all the properties that are usually attributed to God can be extracted merely from God's having necessary existence. Considering the centrality of *tawhīd* to Islam, the first thing Avicenna tries to extract from God's necessary existence is God's oneness. The aim of the present Element is to provide a detailed discussion of Avicenna's arguments for the existence and unity of God. Through this project, the author hopes to clarify how, for Avicenna, the Islamic concept of monotheism is intertwined with the concept of necessary existence.

Keywords: Avicenna, monotheism, Necessary Existent theology, Proof of the Sincere

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