

In which sense is Andalusī Bāṭinism political?

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Abstract

In my paper I will first go back to my definition of Bāṭinism in the Andalusī context as described in my article published in 1996 ("Batinism in al-Andalus. Maslama b. Qasim al-Qurtubi (d. 353/964), author of the *Rutbat al-hakim* and the *Ghayat al-hakim* (Picatrix)", *Studia Islamica* 84, 1996, 87-112) and discuss its validity for that period and also for later cases on the basis of the advances made since then in our understanding of esoteric trends in Islamic thought. Then I will review the political implications of the doctrines held by thinkers such as Ibn Masarra, Maslama, Ibn Barraḡān and others, as compared to those of thinkers who had open political agendas such as Ismā'īl al-Ru'aynī and Ibn Qāsī.