

# Ibn Tufayl (Abubacer) Encyclopedia Article

## Ibn Tufayl (Abubacer)

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# Contents

<a href="#">Ibn Tufayl (Abubacer) Encyclopedia Article.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Ibn Tufayl (Abubacer).....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>

# Ibn Tufayl (Abubacer)

d. c. 1185

Arab physician and philosopher, widely regarded both for his medical work and for his novel *Hayy ibn Yaqzan*. The book's title is rendered in English as *Walk On*, and it presents Ibn Tufayl's mystical philosophy in a tale regarding a hermit who achieves enlightenment while living alone on a secluded island. The protagonist eventually comes to understand that the world is divided between a very few who understand spiritual truths through their unaided reason, a larger group who apprehend truth through spiritual symbols, and the great mass who simply accept the laws that emanate from those symbols.