

# **Ibn Tufayl (Abubacer) Encyclopedia Article**

## **Ibn Tufayl (Abubacer)**

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# 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.