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Book Review of *Ethical Theories in Islam*, by Majid Fakhry

Richard C. Taylor

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This book is correctly labeled “Second Expanded Edition,” but it merits this title only for its addition of ten pages to the first edition. Those additional pages contain a preface to the second edition, an eight-page appendix containing a translation of an extract from the work of Avicenna on providence, and eight items added to the original bibliography. This edition, then, keeps the original format set forth by the author dividing the subject matter into four parts: scriptural morality, theological ethics, philosophical ethics, and religious ethics - questionable classificatory categories based on the sources of texts more than on intrinsic ethical subject matter itself. Aside from four translations supplied in the appendixes, this work consists of the author’s paraphrasing explication of the texts and thought of a number of important ethical writers in Islam. Given the apparent demand that gave rise to a second edition, it is far from evident why this work deserves the high price the publisher has set for it.

Islamic Philosophy theology and Science, Texts and Studies, 8. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994. Pp. xii+238. \$98.50, ISBN 90-04-09300-1.