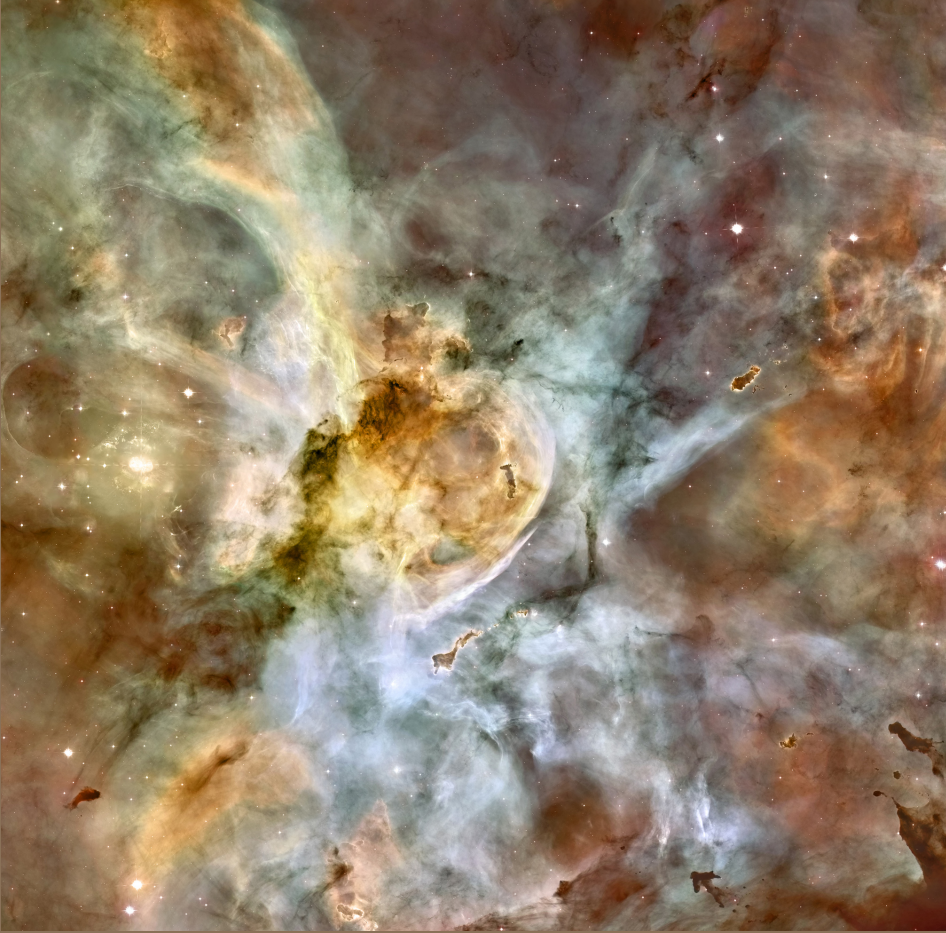


OCCASIONALISM REVISITED

New Essays from the Islamic and Western Traditions

Second Edition

ASIPT Series in Islamic Philosophy and Theology - 2



Edited by
Nazif Muhtaroglu

OCCASIONALISM REVISITED

New Essays from the Islamic and Western Traditions



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Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
Acknowledgement	xi
Notes on Contributors	xiii
Introduction: Nazif Muhtaroglu	1
Timeline For Occasionalism.	12

Section I: Occasionalism in Islamic Intellectual History

1. Al-Māturīdī's View Of Causality	17
Nazif Muhtaroglu	
2. Al-Ghazālī's View On Causality	40
Aladdin M. Yaqub	
3. Ibn 'Arabī And Ash'arites On Causality.	64
Özgür Koca	
4. Ibn Khaldūn And Occasionalism	86
Edward Omar Moad	
5. Late Ottoman Occasionalists And Modern Science	111
Nazif Muhtaroglu & Özgür Koca	

Section II: Occasionalism in Modern European Philosophy

6. Ash'arites, Cartesians And Occasionalism	137
Nazif Muhtaroglu	
7. Cordemoy And The Motives For Cartesian Occasionalism.	175
Andrew Platt	
8. Malebranche And Suárez On The Power Of Secondary Causes: A Contemporary Consideration	205
Fred Ablondi & J. Aaron Simmons	
9. Occasionalism And The Powers Of Minds	226
Walter Ott	

Occasionalism Revisited

10. Berkeley's Strange Semi-Occasionalist Mystery: Finite Minds As Causes	238
--	-----

Marc A. Hight

Section III: Occasionalism and Contemporary Philosophy

11. Laws, Cause, And Occasionalism	265
--	-----

Alvin Plantinga

12. Physical Causation Is Divine Compositionism	284
---	-----

Walter J. Schultz & Lisanne D'andrea-Winslow

13. Occasionalism In A Contemporary Context	305
---	-----

Douglas Kutach & Özgür Koca

Appendix: Selected Readings on Occasionalism in English	321
---	-----

Index	330
-----------------	-----

There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.

Albert Einstein

Preface

This book represents an expanded and updated edition of *Occasionalism Revisited*, originally published by Kalam Research and Media in 2017. This new edition is structured into three distinct sections: “Occasionalism in Islamic Intellectual History,” “Occasionalism in Modern European Philosophy,” and, notably, a new section on “Occasionalism in Contemporary Philosophy.”

This addition addresses a gap in the first edition, which included only a single paper on current philosophical discourse—specifically, “Divine Compositionism as Occasionalism.” In this revised edition, the aforementioned paper has been thoughtfully relocated to the third section and retitled “Physical Occasionalism is Divine Compositionism,” reflecting its enhanced analytical depth.

Additionally, we have included two significant new chapters: Alvin Plantinga’s “Law, Cause, and Occasionalism,” previously published but reprinted here within this new context, and “Occasionalism in a Contemporary Context” by Douglas Kutach and Özgür Koca.

All chapters in this book except the one authored by Plantinga are original contributions, many of which were initially presented at the conference “Occasionalism East and West,” which I had the pleasure of organizing at Harvard University in May 2013. This edition aims to further illuminate the vibrant and evolving discourse on occasionalism, bridging past insights with contemporary philosophical inquiry.

Finally, this book is also designed to guide scholars who may want to outline courses on occasionalism. For this reason, a list of selected readings on occasionalism in English is added as an appendix. Both considerable primary and secondary sources can be found within it. A timeline for occasionalism is included as well, which covers all significant dates relevant to occasionalism.

Acknowledgement

I am deeply grateful to Aaron Spevack and Michaela Spampinato for their invaluable assistance in preparing this new edition. I also extend my gratitude to the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University and the Philosophy Department at Yale University for supporting my research fellowship during this period.

I wish to reiterate my appreciation for the generous research funding provided by the John Templeton Foundation, Kalam Research and Media Foundation, and TUBITAK (Bidep 2232-Program) for the first edition.

Many of the chapters in this book were first presented at the conference “Occasionalism East and West,” which I had the honor of organizing at Harvard University in May 2013, as well as the subsequent conference “Occasionalism and Theories of Causality” held at Boğaziçi University in June 2015. Special thanks go to Ahmad Ragab, Khaled El-Rouayheb, Jeffrey McDonough, Chryssi Sidiropoulou, and Himmet Taşkömür for their pivotal roles in organizing these conferences. Their collaboration and support were instrumental in bringing together the diverse perspectives and insightful discussions that have enriched this edition.

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Douglas Kutach is an independent scholar. He received his Ph.D. from Rutgers University. He authored *Causation* (Key Concepts in Philosophy, 2014) and *Causation and Its Basis in Fundamental Physics* (Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Science, 2013).

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Nazif Muhtaroglu is currently an associate research scholar in the philosophy department at Yale University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky with a dissertation on the Islamic and Cartesian roots of occasionalism. He is primarily interested in historical and theoretical links between Islamic and Western philosophies, the metaphysical and

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