

# "The Attainment of Happiness according to 'The Attainment of Happiness'"

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## Abstract:

Al-Farabi's (d. 950) treatise on 'The Attainment of Happiness' is a strange little book: after a few opening lines concerning the virtues, it seems to lose the plot comprehensively. The question of happiness is only ever approached again obliquely, leading to all kinds of speculations on the part of scholars as to what al-Farabi's intent really was. In my talk I mean to show how not only does 'The Attainment of Happiness' fit in neatly with al-Farabi's overall philosophical output, it also illustrates some wider trends in Arabic philosophy regarding the nature and acquisition of happiness. Similarities and departure points with the ancient tradition will be highlighted.