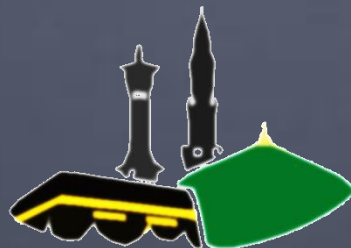


# ISLAMIC OUTLOOK ON KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATION TAKEN FROM TEACHINGS OF IMAM AL-GHAZALI



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THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF WORLDS:

THIS WORLD



THE NEXT WORLD



OUR BODY IS MORTAL  
BUT OUR SOUL CONTINUES ON.

WE HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO THIS WORLD  
TO PREPARE FOR THE WORLD WHICH  
WE WILL LIVE IN FOREVER.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITY NEEDED TO  
PREPARE FOR THE REAL WORLD IS:**

**KNOWLEDGE  
FOLLOWED BY GOOD ACTIONS**

**THERE ARE TWO SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE:**

**SENSE AND REASON**



**DIVINE REVELATION**



**KNOWLEDGE IS SPLIT INTO:**



**REVEALED  
AND  
RATIONAL**

**THEORETICAL  
AND  
PRACTICAL**

**IF RATIONAL KNOWLEDGE IS USED TO  
ATTAIN REVEALED KNOWLEDE,  
THERE IS REWARD IN SEEKING IT.**

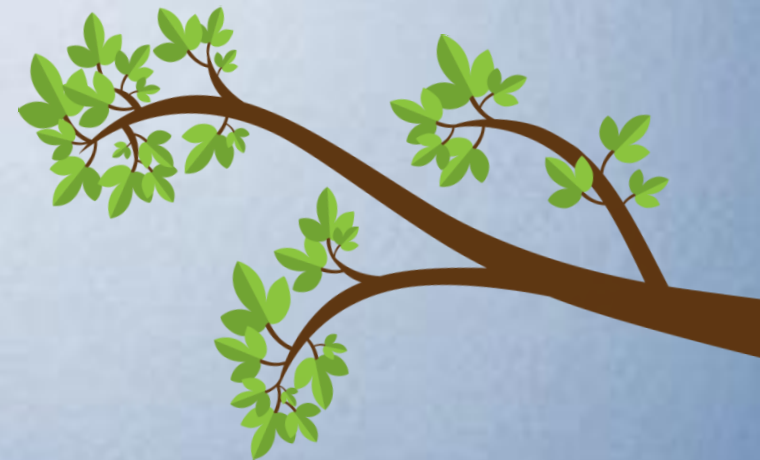
## REVEALED KNOWLEDGE IS SPLIT INTO:

THE ROOTS : (THE BOOK, THE SUNNAH, CONSENSUS, TEACHINGS OF THE SAHABAH & SCHOLARS)

THE BRANCHES : (FIQH & ETHICS)

THE MEANS : (LINGUISTICS & GRAMMAR)

THE ACCESSORIES : (VARIOUS TAFĀSIR, SOURCES OF FIQH, ANNALS & GENEALOGY)



# ULTIMATE KNOWLEDGE IS SPLIT INTO:

TRANSACTIONAL



RULINGS AND  
BEHAVIOURS  
OF HUMANS



FIQH

UNVEILING



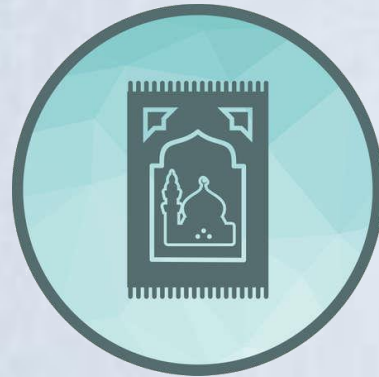
ESSENCE  
AND REALITY  
OF THINGS



TASAWWUF/ TAZKIYAH

**THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS:**

**TO ACHIEVE HAPPINESS  
BY BECOMING CLOSE TO ALLAH TA'ALA**



**THUS, THE PURPOSE OF KNOWLEDGE IS:**

**TO ACQUIRE QUALITIES WHICH WILL BUILD  
THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH ALLAH TA'ALA**

**THE NATURE OF SOUL IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR KINDS:**

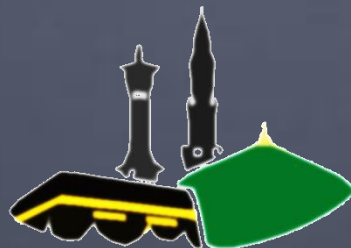
- 1. POWER OF DISCERNING KNOWLEDGE**
- 2. POWER OF JUDGEMENT OR ANGER**
- 3. POWER OF GREED AND DESIRES**
- 4. POWER OF ADJUSTMENT OF ABOVE NATURES**

**IF KNOWLEDGE BECOMES MATURE, TRUTH CAN BE ASCERTAINED FROM FALSEHOOD, AND GOOD CAN BE ASCERTAINED FROM BAD.**

**THUS, KNOWLEDGE IS THE ROOT OF GOOD CONDUCT.**



# INITIAL STAGES OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE STAGES OF LIFE TAKEN FROM TEACHINGS OF IMAM AL-GHAZALI



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**A PERSON IS BORN PURE AND IMPRESSIONABLE.**

**THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFE, THEY BUILD AND DEVELOP POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE QUALITIES.**

**THE MOST ESSENTIAL STAGE OF LIFE IN DEVELOPING THESE QUALITIES IS: CHILDHOOD**

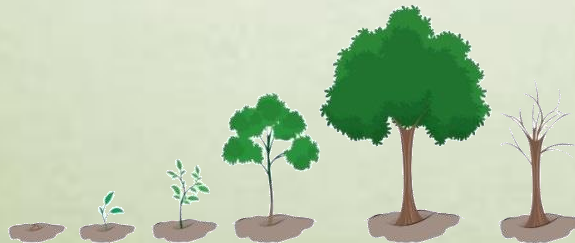


**THE MOST IMPORTANT TEACHERS ARE:  
THE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS**

**FOCUS ON UPBRINGING IS NECESSARY FOR EDUCATION. IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE STUDENT'S CHANGING INTERESTS:**

- IN INFANCY : MOVEMENT AND PLAY**
- IN CHILDHOOD : GAMES AND FINERY**
- IN TEENAGEHOOD : APPEARANCE AND DESIRES**
- IN YOUTH : LEADERSHIP AND WEALTH**

**BY 40, THE INTEREST SHOULD FULLY BE IN :  
KNOWLEDGE AND WORSHIP**



**IN ORDER FOR THE LESSONS FROM THE PARENTS  
TO BE INSTILLED, THEY MUST FIRST BE:  
ROLE MODELS**

**ONE WHO PREVENTS WRONG AND EVILS SHOULD  
HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:**

- KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT IS WRONG AND RIGHT**
  - GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS**
  - GOOD CONDUCT**

**PARENTS SHOULD SHOW GOOD CONDUCT IN  
SOCIETAL RELATIONSHIPS SO THAT CHILDREN CAN  
LEARN THROUGH THEIR BEHAVIOUR.**

**BY THE AGE OF SEVEN, A CHILD SHOULD UNDERSTAND RIGHT AND WRONG, AND START DEVELOPING WISDOM. THERE ARE FIVE STAGES OF ENJOINING WELL AND FORBIDDING EVIL:**

- 1. GIVING SIMPLE ADVICE**
- 2. GIVING A SERMON WITH SWEET WORDS**
- 3. REBUKING THE WRONG**
- 4. PREVENTING THE WRONG**
- 5. GIVING APPROPRIATE AND FAIR PUNISHMENT**



## **BASICS THAT SHOULD BE TAUGHT:**

- QUR'AN AND HADITH**
- OBEDIENCE TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS**
- KINDNESS WITH CLASSMATES AND ALL PEOPLE**
- MODESTY, GENEROSITY AND CIVILITY**
- PURITY AND PRAYER**

## **BASICS THAT SHOULD BE AVOIDED:**

- BOASTING ABOUT LIFESTYLE**
- KEEPING BAD COMPANY**
- EMPTY ENTERTAINMENT**
- STEALING, LYING AND OBSCENITY**
- NOT PRACTICING ON KNOWLEDGE**



**'THE TEACHING OF FAITH IS LIKE  
PLANTING A SEED INTO THE HEART  
UNTIL IT GROWS, STRONG AND HIGH,  
BECOMES A HIGH QUALITY TREE, ITS  
ROOT IN THE EARTH AND ITS BRANCH  
IN THE SKY.'**

**THE INITIAL STAGES OF LEARNING ANY SUBJECT:  
START WITH MEMORISATION  
(CHILDHOOD IS THE BEST AGE TO MEMORISE)**

**THEN MOVE ON TO:  
UNDERSTANDING AND EXPLANATION**

**QUALITIES THAT STUDENTS SHOULD  
SEARCH FOR IN THE COMPANY THEY KEEP:**

- INTELLIGENCE**
- GOOD MORALS AND CHARACTER**
- MODERATION**
- TRUTHFULNESS**





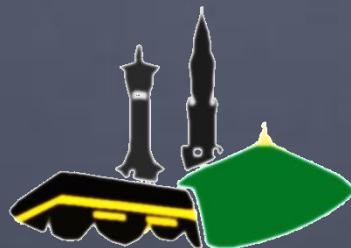
## WHEN SHOULD A STUDENT MARRY?

A PERSON SHOULD MARRY AS SOON AS THEIR URGES GET TOO MUCH. HOWEVER, MARRIAGE IS A RESPONSIBILITY THAT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN IF ILL-PREPARED.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT PREPARED OR UNABLE TO, SPIRITUAL EXERCISES AND CONTINUOUS FASTING WILL SUFFICE AGAINST URGES.



# THE STUDENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIP TAKEN FROM TEACHINGS OF IMAM AL-GHAZALI



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**EDUCATION IS NOT ONLY A PROCESS WHERE THE TEACHER IMPARTS KNOWLEDGE WHICH THE STUDENT MAY OR MAY NOT ABSORB, AFTER WHICH TEACHER AND STUDENT PART WAYS.**



**RATHER IT IS AN INTERACTION AFFECTING AND BENEFITING TEACHER AND STUDENT EQUALLY. THE TEACHER GAINS MERIT FOR GIVING INSTRUCTION AND THE STUDENT CULTIVATES HIMSELF THROUGH THE ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE.**

**TO FEED SOMEONE WITH THE RIGHT FOOD IS TO GIVE LIFE. TO BURDEN SOMEONE WITH WHAT IS NOT RIGHT, ONLY CAUSES RUIN. A STUDENT SHOULD NOT BE TAUGHT ANYTHING BEYOND THEIR LEVEL, NOR SHOULD A STUDENT BE KEPT BEHIND TO THE LEVEL OF THEIR PEERS.**



**THE TEACHER SHOULD BE A ROLE MODEL. THEIR WORK IS NOT LIMITED TO THE TEACHING OF A PARTICULAR SUBJECT BUT ENCOMPASSES VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE LIFE OF THE STUDENT.**

# HOW STUDENTS SHOULD DIVIDE THEIR DAY:

DAWN TO  
SUNRISE

SUNRISE TO  
MID-MORNING

MID-MORNING TO  
MID-AFTERNOON

MID-AFTERNOON  
TO SUNSET

FIRST PARTS  
OF NIGHT



DUA AND  
PRIVATE WORSHIP

SEEKING KNOWLEDGE  
FROM ONE'S PROFESSORS

WRITING NOTES AND  
MAKING FAIR COPIES

LEARNED GATHERINGS,  
DUA, ISTIGHFAR, DHIKR

READING  
THEN PRAYER

**THE ROLE OF THE SCHOLAR IN SOCIETY:**

**SEEKING TO ATTAIN THE TRUTH**

**CULTIVATING THE INNERMOST SELF  
AND ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
THE KNOWLEDGE WHICH THEY HAVE ATTAINED**

**DISSEMINATING THE TRUTH  
AND TEACHING WITHOUT  
DESIRE OR FEAR**



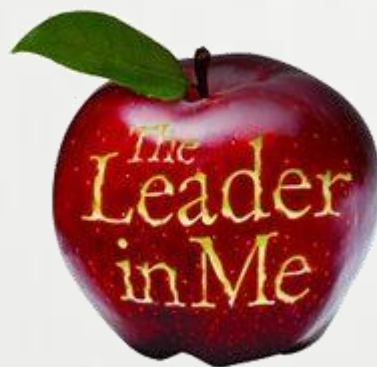
WHO DO YOU THINK IMAM AL-GHAZALI CONSIDERED WORTH FOLLOWING AND IN WHAT ASPECTS OF LIFE?

RULERS AND  
POLITICIANS

LEADERS  
OF SOCIETY

SUFI  
SCHOLARS

WRITERS AND  
PHILOSOPHERS



FUQAHA  
SCHOLARS

TRADERS AND  
COMPANY OWNERS

NON-RELIGIOUS  
THOUGHT-LEADERS

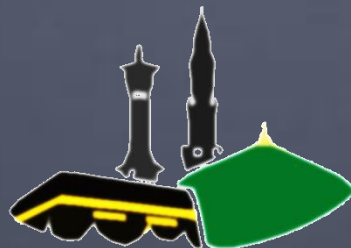
**'WHOEVER LEARNS, ACTS AND TEACHES SHALL  
BE MIGHTY IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**

**FOR THEY ARE AS THE SUN WHOSE  
RESPLENDENCE ILLUMINATES OTHER BODIES  
OR AS MUSK WHOSE FRAGRANCE PERFUMES  
OTHER OBJECTS.**

**IN UNDERTAKING TO TEACH, THEY ACCOMPLISH  
A GREAT AND MOMENTOUS TASK, AND MUST  
THEREFORE BE MINDFUL OF THEIR RULES OF  
CONDUCT AND FUNCTIONS.'**



8 POINT  
CODE OF ETHICS  
FOR STUDENTS  
TAKEN FROM TEACHINGS OF  
IMAM AL-GHAZALI



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**1. ENSURE THAT THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY PURE  
BEFORE THEY UNDERTAKE THE QUEST FOR  
KNOWLEDGE**

**2. DIVEST THEMSELVES OF THEIR WORLDLY POSSESSIONS, DETACH THEMSELVES FROM LUXURIES, AND DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO THE SEARCH FOR KNOWLEDGE AND THE PURSUIT OF THE HEREAFTER**

**3. RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF THEIR TEACHERS  
AND BEHAVE IN A CIVIL MANNER TOWARDS THEM**

**4. BEWARE, ESPECIALLY AT THE BEGINNING OF  
THEIR STUDIES OF PAYING TOO MUCH ATTENTION  
TO DOCTRINAL CONTROVERSIES**

**5. MASTER THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE  
PRAISEWORTHY SCIENCES (LINGUISTICS, TAFSIR,  
HADITH, FIQH AND KALĀM) THEN SPECIALIZE BY  
STUDYING ONE OR MORE OF THOSE SCIENCES IN  
GREATER DEPTH**

**6. CHOOSE USEFUL SUBJECTS IN WHICH TO  
SPECIALIZE IN, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT ARE  
CONDUCTIVE TO SALVATION IN THE HEREAFTER**

**7. STUDY EACH SUBJECT THOROUGHLY BEFORE  
GOING ON TO ANOTHER, BEARING IN MIND THE  
LOGICAL SEQUENCE AND INTERCONNECTEDNESS  
OF THE VARIOUS DISCIPLINES**

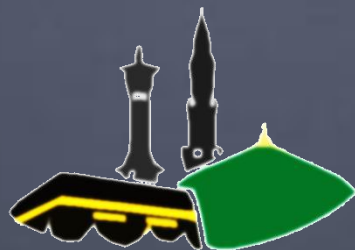


**8. HAVE AS THEIR MAIN GOAL IN THE SEARCH FOR KNOWLEDGE THE CULTIVATION AND PERFECTION OF THE INNERMOST SELF IN THIS WORLD AND PROXIMITY TO ALLAH ALMIGHTY IN THE HEREAFTER, RATHER THAN THE ATTAINMENT OF HIGH OFFICE OR ACQUISITION OF WEALTH OR FAME**

**'OH DISCIPLE! HOW MANY SLEEPLESS NIGHTS  
HAVE YOU PASSED READING SCIENCE AND PORING  
OVER BOOKS BUT I DO NOT KNOW ITS PURPOSE.**

**IF IT WAS FOR WORLDLY ENDS, TO GAIN ITS  
BAUBLES, WIN ITS HONOURS AND TO BOAST OVER  
YOUR CONTEMPORARIES AND EQUALS, WOE TO  
YOU, AND AGAIN WOE!**

**IF YOUR PURPOSE WAS TO VITALIZE THE SACRED  
LAW OF THE PROPHET (PEACE BE UPON HIM), TO  
DEVELOP YOUR CHARACTER AND BREAK 'THE SOUL  
COMMANDING EVIL' THEN BLESSING ON YOU AND  
AGAIN BLESSINGS!**



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