

AL-GHAZĀLĪ
THE REMEMBRANCE
OF DEATH AND THE
AFTERLIFE · *Kitāb*
d̄hikr al-mawt wa-mā
ba‘dahu · BOOK XL of
THE REVIVAL OF THE
RELIGIOUS SCIENCES
Iḥyā’ ulūm al-dīn · translated
with an INTRODUCTION
and NOTES by T.J.WINTER

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ABBREVIATIONS

Ājurrī	: al-Ājurrī, <i>K. al-Shari'a</i>
‘Aṭṭār	: Arberry (tr.), <i>Muslim Saints and Mystics</i>
Azami	: M.M. Azami, <i>Studies in Early Hadith Literature</i>
‘Āridat al-āhwadhbī	: Ibn al-‘Arabī, <i>‘Āridat al-āhwadhbī</i> ...
Baydāwī	: al-Baydāwī, <i>Anwār al-tanzīl</i> ...
Bidāya	: Ibn Kathīr, <i>al-Bidāya wa'l-nihāya</i>
BSOAS	: <i>Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies</i>
<i>De Anima</i>	: Ibn Sīnā, <i>De Anima</i>
Du‘afā’	: al-Nasā‘ī, <i>K. al-Du‘afā’ wa'l-matrūkīn</i>
Durra	: al-Ghazālī, <i>al-Durra</i> ..., ed. Gautier
EI	: <i>Encyclopaedia of Islam</i> (First edition)
EI ²	: <i>Encyclopaedia of Islam</i> (Second edition)
Escatología	: M. Asín Palacios, <i>La Escatología</i> ...
Fath al-Bārī	: Ibn Ḥajar, <i>Fath al-Bārī</i> ...
Fihrist	: Ibn al-Nadīm, <i>K. al-Fihrist</i>
Fiṣal	: Ibn Ḥazm, <i>al-Fiṣal fi'l-milal</i> ...
GAL	: Brockelmann, <i>Geschichte</i> ...
GALS	: Brockelmann, <i>Geschichte</i> ... (<i>Supplement</i>)
GAS	: Sezgin, <i>Geschichte</i> ...
Ghāya	: Ibn al-Jazārī, <i>Ghāyat al-nihāya</i> ...
Ḥākim	: al-Ḥākim al-Nisābūrī, <i>al-Mustadrak</i> ...
Ḥalīmī	: al-Ḥalīmī, <i>al-Minhāj fi Shu‘ab al-īmān</i>
al-Ḥakīm al-Tirmidhbī	: al-Ḥakīm al-Tirmidhbī, <i>Nawādir al-uṣūl</i> ...
al-Ḥāwī	: al-Suyūṭī, <i>al-Ḥāwī li'l-fatāwī</i>
Hujwīrī	: Nicholson (tr.) <i>Kashf al-mahjūb</i>
Ibn Abī Shayba	: Ibn Abī Shayba, <i>al-Muṣannaf</i>
Ibn A‘tham	: Ibn A‘tham, <i>al-Futūḥ</i>
Ibn al-Dayba‘	: Ibn al-Dayba‘, <i>Tamyīz al-ṭayyib</i> ...
Ibn Rajab	: Ibn Rajab, <i>Ahwāl al-qubūr</i> ...
Ibn al-Mubārak	: Ibn al-Mubārak, <i>al-Zuhd wa'l-raqā'iq</i>

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- | Ibn Shaddād | : Ibn Shaddād, <i>al-A^clāq al-Khaṭīra</i> ... | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|----|
| Ibn al-Sunnī | : Ibn al-Sunnī, <i>'Amal al-yawm wa'l-layla</i> | | |
| <i>Iljām</i> | : al-Ghazālī, <i>Iljām al-'awāmm</i> ... | | |
| <i>Inbāh</i> | : Ibn 'Abd al-Barr, <i>al-Inbāh</i> ... | | |
| <i>Iqtisād</i> | : al-Ghazālī, <i>al-Iqtisād fi 'l-i^ctīqād</i> | | |
| <i>Iṣāba</i> | : Ibn Ḥajar, <i>al-Iṣāba fī tamyīz al-Ṣahāba</i> | | |
| <i>Istī^cāb</i> | : Ibn 'Abd al-Barr, <i>al-Istī^cāb</i> ... | | |
| JAOS | : <i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i> | | |
| JRAS | : <i>Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> | | |
| Kāshīf | : al-Dhahabī, <i>al-Kāshīf</i> ... | | |
| <u>Khālid</u> | : Ḥasan Khālid, <i>al-Islām wa-ru'yatuhu</i> ... | | |
| Lane | : Lane, <i>An Arabic-English Lexicon</i> | | |
| Mashāhīr | : Ibn Ḥibbān, <i>Mashāhīr 'ulamā' al-amṣār</i> | | |
| Ma' <th>ūr</th> | ūr | : al-Daylamī, <i>al-Firdaws bi-ma'<th>ūr</th></i> ... | ūr |
| Māturīdī | : al-Māturīdī, <i>Kitāb al-Tawḥīd</i> | | |
| MIDEO | : <i>Mélanges de l'Institut Dominicain d'Etudes Orientales</i> | | |
| <i>MW</i> | : <i>The Muslim World</i> | | |
| Nawawī, <i>Sharh</i> | : al-Nawawī, <i>al-Minhāj fī sharh</i> ... | | |
| Pensée | : Gardet, <i>La Pensée Religieuse d'Avicenne</i> | | |
| Q. | : <i>al-Qu'ān al-Karīm</i> | | |
| Quḍā'i | : al-Quḍā'i, <i>Musnad al-Shihāb</i> | | |
| Qurṭubī | : al-Qurṭubī, <i>al-Tadhkīra</i> ... | | |
| Qushayrī | : al-Qushayrī, <i>al-Risāla fī 'ilm al-taṣawwuf</i> | | |
| Şafadī | : al-Şafadī, <i>al-Wāfi bī'l-wafayāt</i> | | |
| Sakhāwī | : al-Sakhāwī, <i>al-Maqāṣid al-Hasana</i> ... | | |
| Schimmel | : Schimmel, <i>And Muhammad is His Messenger</i> | | |
| SEI | : <i>Shorter Encyclopaedia of Islam</i> | | |
| Sharnūbī | : al-Sharnūbī, <i>Taqrib al-mā'ānī</i> ... | | |
| Shawkānī | : al-Shawkānī, <i>al-Fawā'id al-majmū'a</i> ... | | |
| Smith and Haddad | : Smith and Haddad, <i>The Islamic Understanding...</i> | | |
| Sulamī | : al-Sulamī, <i>Ṭabaqāt al-Ṣūfiyya</i> | | |
| Ṭabarānī, <i>Ṣaghīr</i> | : al-Ṭabarānī, <i>al-Mu^cjam al-Ṣaghīr</i> | | |
| Tahdhīb al-Tahdhīb | : Ibn Ḥajar, <i>Tahdhīb al-Tahdhīb</i> | | |
| Ta'jīl | : Ibn Ḥajar, <i>Ta'jīl al-manfa'a</i> ... | | |
| Tārīkh Baghdād | : al-Khaṭīb al-Baghdādī, <i>Tārīkh Baghdād</i> | | |

Abbreviations

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Tayālisī | : al-Tayālisī, <i>al-Musnad</i> |
| ‘Uqaylī | : al-‘Uqaylī, <i>al-Ḍu^cafā' al-Kabīr</i> |
| Wakī' | : Ibn al-Jarrāh, <i>K. al-Zuhd</i> |
| Zabīdī | : al-Zabīdī, <i>Iḥāf al-sādat al-muttaqīn</i> ... |

PREFACE

'DEATH and the sun are not to be looked at steadily.' The maxim of La Rochefoucauld centrally represents modern man's attitude to this alarming yet most fascinating of subjects. And indeed, to the reader whose roots lie in the soil of secular Europe the prospect of reading a text (and not an overly brief one at that) the declared object of which is to remind him just how quick and fragile his life must be, might seem unpromising, or even distasteful. One must not, however, lose sight of the fact that an interest in the Grand Leveller, far from reflecting bad taste or morbidity, has historically provided man with many of his finest literary and religious achievements. From the time of the *Egyptian Book of the Dead* more than two millennia before Christ, through the age of Dante to Donne and Milton, the steady contemplation of human mortality and the possibility of survival has bequeathed to us a recurrent literary theme, which, by shedding light on how earlier generations died provides us with profound insights into the way they chose to live.

The text here presented in translation lays a particular claim to our attention, for it is the principal work on the matter of death to have issued from the pen of the most celebrated theologian of Islam. The *Imām al-Ghazālī* designed it to be the final flourish to his forty-'book' *Revival of the Religious Sciences* (in Arabic, *Iḥyā 'ulūm ad-dīn*), his magisterial exposition of the Islamic faith which is generally acclaimed as the definitive *summa theologica* of Islam. In view of the wide circulation of the work, the *Remembrance of Death and the Afterlife* (*Kitāb Dhikr al-mawt wa-mā ba'dahu*) may well be considered the most influential treatment of orthodox Muslim belief in this signally important field. Further, while its academic interest is substantial, the appeal of al-Ghazālī's tract today extends far beyond the confines of University libraries, for the world which its author addressed, despite almost a thousand years of change and (as some would have it) corrosion, still lives, worships and dies. It is this abiding relevance of al-Ghazālī's message which I have endeavoured to bear in mind during the

labour of translation, hoping that some glimmer of the literary quality of the original may shine through, and that perhaps, with the help of Providence, our author's text may still serve the purpose for which it was intended.

I would like to record my indebtedness to a number of scholars who have assisted me with this work. In particular, Dr. Ibrāhīm al-Baṭṭāwī of al-Azhar University and Shaikh Ahmād Mashhūr al-Haddād elucidated a number of difficult passages and helped me with the identification of certain of the sayings of the Prophet in which this text abounds. Professor Malcolm Lyons of Cambridge University and Seemi Ghazi kindly read the Introduction and parts of the translation, and made several useful suggestions. To these and a number of others I extend my thanks.

In the absence of a critical edition of the *Revival* I have made use of the following editions: (1) the Amīriya edition of 1289 AH as reprinted at the margin of al-Murtadā al-Zabīdī's commentary *Ithāf al-sādat al-muttaqīn bi-sharḥ asrār Ihyā' 'ulūm al-dīn*, second edition (Cairo: al-Maymanīya, 1311 AH) (referred to as A); (2) the text reproduced in the *Ithāf* itself, irregularities in which are sometimes pointed out by the commentator (Z); (3) the al-Maktaba al-Azhariya edition of 1317 AH (MA). Attention is drawn to significant discrepancies only; obvious typographic errors are omitted.

Square brackets have been employed for explanatory material added to the text, and also for the Arabic original of certain locutions for which no satisfactory equivalent exists in English. Qur'ānic material, for which I have drawn heavily on Pickthall's *Meaning of the Glorious Koran*, is in italics and numerated in accordance with the King Fu'ād Edition, while references to the *hadīth* literature follow the system used in Wensinck's *Concordance*, with the more recondite Traditions being identified according to the volume and page numbers of the printed editions of those works listed in the Bibliography. Where such material has not been identified in printed works the reader has been referred to the *takhrīj* of Zabīdī and the *zawā'id* literature. Roughly following the system of al-'Irāqī, all Traditions have been divided into three groups: those included by al-Bukhārī and

Muslim, for which no reference to other sources has been made, those covered by the other collections used by Wensinck, for which other sources are mentioned but rarely, and thirdly, the less important texts; this for the sake of economy. The pagination in references to the *Ihyā'* is that of the Cairo edition of Muṣṭafā al-Halabī (1347 AH) as being perhaps more widely available than the three texts listed above.

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