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Guidance

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درس الإحياء

The Revival Circle: Summary of Ghazali's Ihya'

The Quarter on Worldly Duties.
Book Six: The Book of Seclusion ('uzla)

Introduction: Why Seclusion?

Faraz Rabbani



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The Human Being is Need— Immediate and Ultimate

الإحسان مخلوق ضعيف مفقتر
إلى خلق الله
...إلى الله

The human being is a needy creation
In this world, they need people—for their material,
social, emotional, and physical needs
But they need Allah Most High, above all else



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The Problem

The worldly neediness of the human being
 busies them from their ultimate need
 Their need for Allah and the Next Life
 This is what the Prophets were sent with

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The Quran: Surat al-Takathur (102)

الْهَيْكَلُ الْفَكَاكِرُ ۝ حَتَّىٰ زُرْتُمُ الْمَقَابِرَ ۝ كَلَّا سَوْفَ
 تَعْلَمُونَ ۝ ثُمَّ كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ ۝ كَلَّا لَوْ تَعْلَمُونَ
 عِلْمَ الْيَقِينِ ۝ لَتَرَوُنَّ الْجَحِيمَ ۝ ثُمَّ لَتَرَوُنَّهَا
 عِزَّةَ الْيَقِينِ ۝ ثُمَّ لَتُسْأَلُنَّ يَوْمَئِذٍ عَنِ النَّعِيمِ ۝

- (1) In the Name of Allah Most Merciful and Compassionate: All of you are distracted by competing for worldly gain:
- (2) Until you pay your final "visit" to far-stretching graveyards.
- (3) By no means let it distract you! You shall surely come to know;
- (4) And far worse: By no means let it do so: You shall surely come awfully to know!
- (5). By no means let it do so:
- If you but realized with the knowledge of certainty itself-!
- (6) Verily you shall unfailingly spy from afar the hell-raging fire!
- (7) And what is more, you shall unfailingly see it face to face with certainty itself!
- (8) And direr still: On that day shall you be asked about what you enjoyed again and again.

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Worldliness: Hardens the Heart

﴿أَلَمْ يَأْنِ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنْ تَخْشَعَ قُلُوبُهُمْ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَمَا
 نَزَلَ مِنَ الْحَقِّ وَلَا يَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلُ
 فَطَالَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْأَمَدُ فَقَسَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَكَثِيرٌ مِنْهُمْ فَاسِقُونَ﴾ (١٦)

"Is it not finally time for the hearts of those who believe to be devotedly humbled low to the remembrance of Allah and what has come down of the Truth, and not be like those given the scripture before, so the time between messengers drew overlong upon them, and their hearts grew hard, and a great many of them are godless." [Quran, 57:16]

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The Human Being

- One. Social Animal
To fulfill worldly needs
- Two. Spiritual Being
To fulfill ultimate need
- Three. However, worldly needs busy from
fulfillment of spiritual needs
- Four. Therefore: seclusion needed



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General Sunna Seclusion

- One. Seclusion ('uzla) is a sunna
Consider: the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon
him) before Revelation
- Two. Daily seclusion: the five prayers
Plus: before and after prayer; mornings and evenings
- Three. Night worship
- Four. Time for Quran, remembrance, reflection
- Five. Seeking knowledge and keeping religious
company with purpose



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Specific Seclusion

- قال سيدي ابن عطاء الله (رحمه الله تعالى):
ما نفع القلب شيء مثل عزلة يدخل فيها ميدان فكرة
- Nothing benefits the heart like some
seclusion in which one enters the vast plains
of contemplation (fikir).
- [Ibn 'Ata'illah, Hikam]
- This is like spiritual surgery: consider and
consult



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Stepping Away...

Practical Means:

One. Consider and Reflect

Consider your life, relationship with Allah, your purpose, your time and how you spend it, the company you keep

Two. Consult and Plan

“Consult the Wise.”

Three. Spiritual Travel

Hajj, Umra, visiting scholars

Attending spiritual or religious educational programs—
with purpose



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Some of the Counsels of the Scholars



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كتاب آداب العزلة

The Quarter on Worldly Habits.
Book Six: The Book of Seclusion
(‘uzla) - Lesson One. Ghazali’s Opening
on the Importance of Seclusion



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