



Seekers  
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)

Lesson One. Ghazali's Opening on the Importance of Seclusion

Faraz Rabbani



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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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## Those For and Against Seclusion

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The difference  
amongst the Early  
Muslims  
Why?

### الْبَابُ الْأَوَّلُ الَّذِينَ فِي الْهَرَجَةِ وَالْمَخَالِطَةِ

ذهب إلى اختيار العزلة وتقضيها على المخالطة: سفيان الثوري،  
وابراهيم بن ادهم، والقفيل بن عياض، وبشر الحافي<sup>(١)</sup> . . . وغيرهم.  
وقال أكثر الساجدين باستحباب المخالطة، واستكثار الإخوان، والتجيب إلى  
المؤمنين، والاستعانة بهم في الدين تعاوناً على البر والتقوى، ومثال إلى هذا:  
الشعبي، وسعيد بن المسيب، وابن المبارك، والشافعي، وأحمد بن حنبل . . .  
وغيرهم.



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## The Case for Society

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The Quran and Sunna on mixing and society  
Human need and benefit  
*The sunna of society*  
But seclude from harm



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## The Case for Seclusion

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Proofs for stepping away  
Ghazali: not absolutely acceptable



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## The Benefits of 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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## Benefits: One. Time for Devotion

The Sunna of seclusion for devotion

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## Benefits: Two. Distance from Sin

Sins become habits  
Seclusion helps break habits

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## Benefits: Two. Distance from Sin

Sins become habits  
Seclusion helps break habits  
How seclusion helps with key sins



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## Benefits: Three. Safety from Fitna

The Prophetic counsel



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## Benefits: Three. Safety from Harm from People

The Prophetic counsel  
Other Benefits



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# كتاب آداب العزلة

The Quarter on Worldly Habits.  
Book Six: The Book of Seclusion  
(‘uzla)

Lesson Two. The Benefits of  
Society and Its Managers