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درس الإحياء
كتاب الأمر بالمعروف والنهي عن المنكر
Revival Circle: Summary of
Imam Ghazali's Ihya'

The Quarter on Worldly Duties.
Book Nine: Book of Commanding the Good and Forbidding the Wrong

Lesson Four. Commanding the Good with Leaders
Faraz Rabbani



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إن الأمر بالمعروف والنهي عن المنكر هو القطب الأعظم في الدين، وهو
المهم الذي ابتعث الله له النبيين أجمعين. ولو طوي بساطه، وأهمل علمه وعمله
لتعطلت النبوة واضمحلت الديانة، وعمت الفسقة، وفشت الضلالة وشاعت
الجهالة. . وقد كان الذي خفنا أن يكون فئانا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

Imam Ghazali: "Truly, commanding the good and
forbidding the wrong is the greatest support of the
religion. It is the duty for which Allah Most High sent
forth all the Prophets.

If it ceases, is ignored, or not acted upon, then Prophetic
guidance will become ineffectual; religiosity will be
wiped out; lack of concern will become widespread;
misguidance will prevail; and ignorance will spread..."



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Three Levels of Commanding Good— and Which Relate to Leaders

One. Making known (ta'rif)

Two. Admonishing (wa'dh)

Three. Compelling (qahr)

What is allowed with leaders?

(Scope of compelling—and the critical consideration
of consequences)



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Compelling Leadership?

Compelling rulers and consideration of
consequences

Examples: protests, disobedience...

Firmness in Address?

Fitna



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The Ways of the Early Muslims

Not afraid for themselves

(Ruling?)

“The best of martyrs?”

However: consideration of public consequences?



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Examples from the Early Muslims

Abu Sa'id al-Khudri with the Sultan (Marwan ibn al-Hakam)

Ata' ibn Abi Rabah with Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan)

al-Hasan al-Basri with al-Hajjaj



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Principles of Political Engagement with Non-Muslim Systems

One. Know your personal obligations and ethics

Two. Do not leave nor risk your personal obligations, nor step down from your ethical principles

Three. Distinguish between discretion (mudarat) and ethical weakness (mudahana)

Four. Consult the people of knowledge and experience

Five. Turn to Allah before critical choices

Salat al-Istikhara

Six. Cultivate (1) your faith, (2) knowledge, (3) core religious routines, and (4) sustain good company



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Common Social Wrongs

... and the Duty of Calling to Allah Most High

Begin with yourself

Don't forget your duty

Act on knowledge



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الكتاب العشرون: آداب المعيشة وأخلاق النبوة

Next: Book 20: Commanding the
Good and Forbidding the Wrong