

THE ETHICAL AND SPIRITUAL TEACHINGS OF AL-GHAZALI'S
“MUKOSHAFATUL QULUB”

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Abstract: *This article examines the moral and spiritual dimensions of human life as presented in Imam Al-Ghazali's renowned work “Mukoshafatul ul Qulub”. The study focuses on the ethical teachings, inner purification, and spiritual awareness. Through qualitative textual analysis, the article explores how the work addresses the relationship between the human heart, faith, and moral behavior. The article highlights the relevance of Al-Ghazali's ideas in contemporary society, particularly in the context of spiritual crises and moral challenges faced by individuals today.*

Key words: *“Mukoshafatul Qulub”, Imam al-Ghazali, moral education, spirituality, Islamic ethics.*

INTRODUCTION

In new Uzbekistan, large-scale work is being carried out to restore, study and widely promote the scientific-practical, cultural-educational heritage of great scholars. These efforts are also aimed at highlighting their invaluable contributions to world civilization, which is a clear evidence of the growing interest in Islamic science and knowledge. In particular, great Islamic scholars and thinkers played an important role in the spiritual and moral development of society in the IX-XII centuries. Among them, the famous philosopher Abu Hamid Imam Ghazali occupies a special place. His teachings about human perfection remain very relevant today, especially in the fields of education and training.

Abu Hamid al-Ghazali was a prominent Muslim scholar, educationist, philosopher, and jurist, has significantly shaped Islamic thought, particularly in ethics, Islamic knowledge, and education. Known as "Hujjat al-Islam" (authority on Islam), Ghazali's works have profoundly impacted Islamic scholarship and continue to be studied extensively. Among his many contributions, his ideas on education and teaching values stand out for their depth and relevance to historical and contemporary contexts. In a period marked by political instability and intellectual debates, Ghazali's vision of education sought to cultivate intellectual understanding, moral character and spiritual awareness, aiming to create balanced individuals who embody Islamic virtues. For this reason, Ghazali paid special attention to the issues of knowledge and education in his works along with the philosophical foundation of Islamic

theology. Ghazali emphasizes that it is necessary to understand the world with the mind, and Islamic education should be understood through spiritual and physical exercises – obedience.

Ghazali lived in the intellectual and spiritual world of the Kur'an and Sunnah. He enriched the community of religious scholars with his contributions. Ghazali's ability to combine different fields of science is not only the result of his personal craft, but also the influence of the intellectual and spiritual climate that allowed him to grow as a philosopher and scientist. Ghazali considered knowledge to be the highest virtue. Those who have that knowledge grew up in a cultural environment where they were highly respected. Undoubtedly, this situation is caused by the importance given to science by the Kur'an. Based on Ghazali's works, the interpretation of the Kur'an was described.

Methodology. This research is based on a qualitative research approach. The primary source of the study is Imam al-Ghazali's *Mukoshafatul ul Qulub*. The methodology includes textual analysis, thematic interpretation, and comparative reflection. Key concepts such as the heart (qalb), sincerity (ikhlas), repentance (tawbah), and accountability are identified and analyzed within the text.

Secondary sources, including scholarly articles and classical interpretations of al-Ghazali's works, are used to support the analysis. The study does not rely on statistical data but instead focuses on interpretive analysis to uncover the deeper moral meanings embedded in the text.

Result. The results reveal that “*Mukoshafatul Qulub*” functions as a comprehensive moral framework rather than merely a religious text. The work successfully connects spiritual purification with ethical conduct. It encourages readers to develop self-discipline, moral responsibility, and spiritual consciousness.

The study also finds that al-Ghazali's teachings are adaptable to various cultural and social contexts. The universal values presented in the book, such as honesty, humility, and compassion, remain relevant across time and place.

Analysis. “*Mukoshafatul Qulub*” emphasizes the central role of the heart in shaping human behavior. According to Al-Ghazali, the heart is the core of moral decision-making and spiritual awareness. When the heart is purified, a person's actions naturally reflect ethical values such as honesty, patience, and humility.

The book frequently warns against spiritual diseases such as hypocrisy, arrogance, greed, and negligence. Al-Ghazali explains that these negative traits gradually corrupt the heart and distance a person from moral integrity. Through stories, Quranic verses, and hadiths, the author illustrates the consequences of ignoring inner purification.

Discussion.

The teachings of “*Mukoshafatul Qulub*” can be effectively applied to modern moral education. In contemporary society, individuals often focus on external success while neglecting inner development. Al-Ghazali's emphasis on self-awareness and sincerity offers a balanced approach to personal growth.

Moreover, the book highlights the importance of intention behind actions. This concept is particularly relevant in educational and professional environments, where ethical behavior is often measured only by outcomes rather than moral intentions. The discussion shows that al-

Ghazali's ideas promote a holistic understanding of ethics that integrates both inner and outer dimensions of human life.

Conclusion. In conclusion, I would like to say that, Imam al-Ghazali's "Mukoshafatul Qulub" provides profound insights into moral and spiritual education. The book emphasizes the purification of the heart as the foundation of ethical behavior and spiritual success. Through its rich content and moral guidance, the work continues to inspire individuals seeking inner peace and moral clarity.

The study demonstrates that Mukoshafatul ul Qulub is not only a classical Islamic text but also a valuable resource for addressing modern moral challenges.

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