



Ethical Teachings of Abū āmid al-Ghazālī

Economics of Happiness

By Sami Al-Daghistani

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A study of the interplay of economic philosophy and moral conduct in the writings of Abū āmid al-Ghazālī (d. 1111), one of the most renowned scholars in Islamic history

This book studies the interplay of economic philosophy and moral conduct as reflected in the writings of one of the most renowned scholars in Islamic history, Abū āmid Muāammad ibn Muāammad al-Ghazālī (d. 1111). As is well known, Imām al-Ghazālī, nicknamed “the proof of Islam”, contributed immensely to Islamic theology, philosophy, and Sufism or Islamic mysticism (*taāawwuf*). Strikingly enough, al-Ghazālī also made seminal contributions to the field of economic thought, but this contribution has been largely neglected, although al-Ghazālī dedicated many chapters to what he considered just and *Shariā*-based economic conduct in (Muslim) society. This book aims to analyse and revive al-Ghazālī’s understudied contribution to economic thought by emphasizing his economic philosophy and its correlation between *Shariā*’s moral law and the tradition of *taāawwuf* as well as to situate his thought within the context of modern economic theories.

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Introduction; 1. Abū āmid al-Ghazālī – between Politics, Philosophy, and Sufism; 2. History of Islamic Economic Thought; 3. Al-Ghazālī’s Economic Teachings and the Science of the Hereafter (‘ilm al-ākhirah); 4. Classical Economics and its Worldviews; 5. Contemporary Debates – al-Ghazālī and Modern Economics; Conclusion: Conundrum of Ethics in Economics – a Feasible Possibility or Vain Attempt?; Appendix 1: Historical Development of Some of the Most Prominent Classical Islamic Scholars on Economic Thought; Appendix 2: Selected quotations of al-Ghazālī’s Economic Teachings in the English Language; Bibliography; Index.

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