

Contribution

Kalam

- His first contribution was to Islamic Theology - Kalam.
- It was falling under the influence of Greek Philosophy, tarnishing the reputation and generating negative attitudes towards it.
- Al- Ghazali openly criticized philosophers such as Aristotle in his book "the incoherence of the philosophers".
- Example Aristotle said that resurrection was a myth, but Ghazali said because Allah is all-powerful, Allah created life and can also re-create it.
- Ghazali's critique was so successful that Greek philosophy never influenced Kalam again.

Sufism

- Ghazali became fascinated with Sufism. Sufism focuses on direct personal experiences with Allah as ways of becoming a more dedicated adherent.
- A strong connection to the Sufi idea that knowledge could be gained through mystical disciplines, that would bring him closer to Allah.
- He then wrote his most famous text 'the revival of religious sciences' which refined and reshaped lots of Islamic teachings.

Education

- He used his influence to change people's opinions on education. 'Revival of Religious Experiences', Al-Ghazali emphasizes that education shouldn't be limited, but should be inclusive of all aspects of life.
- He also explained the purpose of education and gaining knowledge is to assist man in achieving full happiness by achieving the closest possible relationship with Allah.

Al-Ghazali

Impact

- By contributing to Sufi teachings and creating the idea that mysticism should be combined with Sharia law. Widely acknowledged.
- Ghazali was able to follow Shari'a and mysticism, to co-exist in Islam. He earned one of the greatest recognitions, as one of renewal of Islam.
- Education, Al-Ghazali wrote the text 'THE REVIVAL OF THE RELIGIOUS SCIENCES' emphasis on holistic education. Outlining - why and how
- A wider discourse in education, his impact is reaching.
- Still has an impact today because of his forward-thinking nature and his work.

Sexual Ethics

Sexual Ethics

- the sexual ethical teachings are a guide, so they don't do things that are morally wrong and displeasing to God.
- Male and female complement each other: "they are your garments and you are their garments" (Qur'an 2:187). Pre-marital sex is considered wrong "Haram"
- Reinforce the idea that sex is to be enjoyed within a marriage that has been sanctioned by Allah.

Contraception

- Islam is strongly pro-family and see children as a gift from God.
- Muslims forbid sex outside of marriage, so contraception should be used within marriage with both consent of husband and wife.
- Al-Ghazali argued that while abortion and infanticide were crimes against a living being, contraception was different.
- Al-Ghazali rejected some reasons for contraceptives as objectionable (Makruh).

Sexual Ethics (cont)

- Al-Ghazali supported the use of contraceptives for protecting the dangers of childbirth, preserve beauty, economic reasons (manageable size), and the well being of the children.
- All forms of reversible contraception are permissible if consensual.

The Hajj

- Is the last pillar of Islam which is fundamental and required in order to live out the Islamic beliefs.
- Every Muslim must perform the Hajj at least once in their life unless they are physically unable to.
- Muslims believe that the rites of the Hajj were designed by Allah to develop God-consciousness and a sense of spiritual rebirth.
- Muslims come together as one.
- A spiritual, physical, and mental, Islamic adherent's ultimate goal is to purify the soul.
- Spiritual rebirth allows adherents to live a more centered and observant life focused on consolidating their relationship with Allah.
- Hajj allows Islamic adherents to pivot their lives away from modern distractions and reorient their focus to Allah and living a life where Islamic beliefs guide all actions and behaviors.
- Al-Ghazali has also participated in the Hajj along with many other significant people in the Islamic culture.