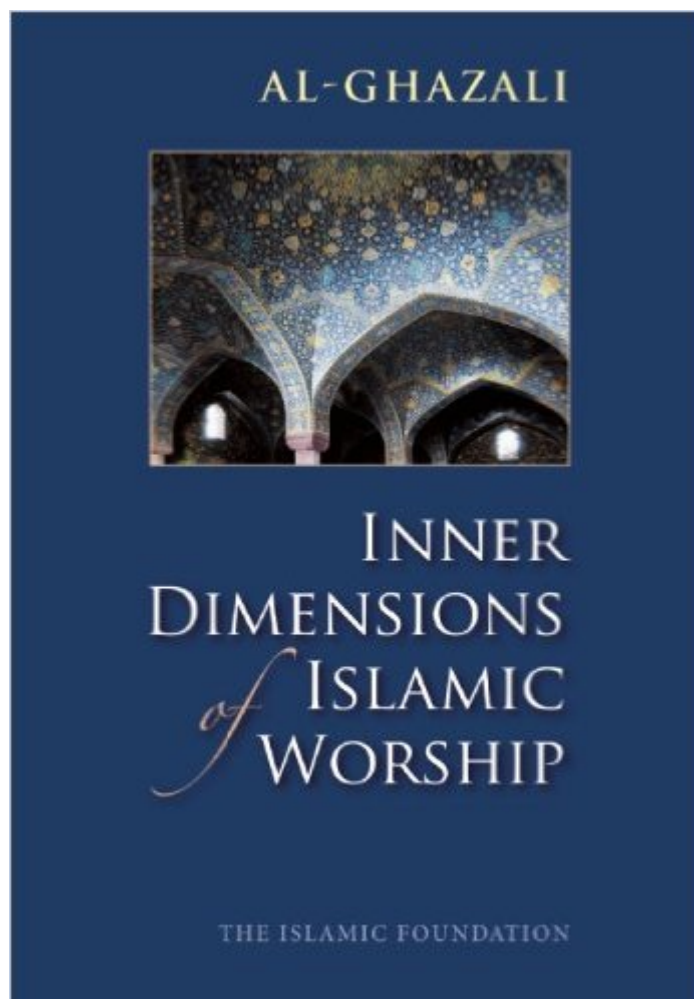


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Inner Dimensions Of Islamic Worship



Synopsis

In this book readers are led on a powerful and inspiring journey through the inner dimensions of a range of Islamic acts, including prayer, almsgiving, fasting, and pilgrimage. Consisting of a selection of writings by a great figure in Islamic history, Imam al-Ghazali, this book helps readers realize the benefits of the upliftment of their spiritual, social, and moral qualities. Al-Ghazali (1058–1111), a towering figure in Islam, was born at Tus, near Mashhad in Iran, in the early Seljuq era. He wrote a large number of works, of which his magnum opus was the *Ihya' Ulum al-Din* compiled during his period of retirement and contemplation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is easy to read and very slim, so it does not take long for a person to read through it at least once. Most people, however, will want to take longer so they can reflect on what Al-Ghazali is saying. Basically, he breaks down the 5 pillars of Islam and focuses on each one and how to perfect one's worship in that pillar. My favorite was the one that he focuses the most on: Prayer. He lists techniques to be better at performing prayer and being closer to Allah while doing so. The best part is that he explains how even the companions of the Prophet (saw) had problems and were not perfect in their worship. It is a constant struggle, and his book helps in that struggle. A must read for everyone who is interested strengthening their faith.

I have used this text on and off for several years when teaching my Intro to Islam courses, and I find it very useful. The translation is clear and it is a good length for this purpose. Most importantly, it provides insight into those aspects of Islamic devotion that are most ritualistic and formalized, and

therefore the hardest to penetrate for non-practitioners. The negatives of this text is that it is imported, and does not appear to be printed regularly or distributed reliably within the U.S. I have been in the sticky situation of ordering it for a course, only to have it arrive late, or be told that it is temporarily out of print or out of stock.

Because I was reading a translation of this novel, I feel I have to divide the review into two parts: ideas and translation. IdeasIdeologically, I very much enjoyed this book. Ghazali focuses first on each action's merit (using the Qur'an and hadith as evidence) then goes into what/how our inner selves should think/feel/gain from each actions. In most instances, however, he does not say how to achieve these inner states; the how is left to the reader. Still, just being conscious of the purpose of prayer (and other acts of worship) has improved the quality of my prayers tremendously. TranslationThe reason I gave this book four stars instead of 5 is the clunkiness of the translation. At times it felt like modern speech and at times the phrasing felt a little bit awkward or outdated. I'm not sure how much of that is the translation and how much of it is the author, but I would have liked a bit more consistency. I also felt jipped, for lack of a better word, in the end. The last two chapters were exceedingly short, and the comparison is even paler when I consider how long and thorough the preceding chapter (the one regarding Hajj) is. The book feels like it just ends. I'm aware that this book is the extremely abridged version of Ghazali's several-volume work, and I believe the brevity of the last two chapters is a result of the truncation of the larger work because the chapters don't follow the same thought process as the chapters before it. I see no reason why the rest of these chapters would have been left out, but the abrupt ending left me wanting more. If, one day, I am able to read Persian/Farsi, I will read the original text (insha'Allah)

This book is so easy to read and engaging, but at the same time incredibly deep and informative. It does a great job of summarizing really important details and the layout of the book is also really useful-- it's useful if you enjoy reading from cover to cover or you want to skip between chapters based on what you're interested in learning about first.

I'm not exaggerating but this book changed my life. I have honestly spent days pondering what I've read in this book, and I still do. Anyone who prays should read this. I don't think I prayed with as good a mindset before reading this. Don't let the title of "inner dimensions" drive you away thinking this is about some typical overly wanting to be mystical type reading. Ghazali starts off explaining the importance of what he calls the "outer dimensions" and then goes on in depth about the inner

dimensions of worship.

Easy to read, and gave me exactly what I wanted. It made me think about why we do things and made me be more aware in my doings.. Seeing all examples of deeds of people who are amongst best of us was very inspiring...

This book is one of the best religious book that any believer who is seeking the real meaning of worship should read

In an age of hustle bustle and distractions, this book really helps one to refocus on what really matters and give your prayer the right it deserves.

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