



# The Beginning of Guidance: The Imam and proof of Islam

*Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali*

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## **The Beginning of Guidance: The Imam and proof of Islam** Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali

Complete Arabic Text with Facing English Translation Imam Ghazali's Bidayat al-Hidaya is a highly motivational manual detailing the fundamentals of acquiring guidance through God-consciousness (taqwa). Imam Ghazali argues that just as there is an end to this noble objective there is also a beginning to it, which must be made firm for one to achieve success. He then goes on to expound the fundamentals of this "beginning." While being concise and to-the-point the manual is laid out in the form of a detailed daily timetable providing the reader strong inspiration and much heart-rending counsel. The three sections of this book are on obedience, refraining from disobedience, and the etiquette of companionship with the Creator and with creation. One of Imam Ghazali's final works, it embodies a lifetime of learning, experience, and spirituality and can be taken as an introduction to his larger works. This translation published for the first time with facing Arabic text also includes many notes and transliteration for the supplications contained within. "An excellent translation of an important book on the fundamentals of Muslim piety and etiquette. With an accessible English translation alongside the original Arabic text, this introductory work will be useful for readers interested in exploring the realities of Islamic piety, students of Arabic and educators alike." Jonathan brown University of Washington Dr. Mashhad Al-Allaf holds a doctoral degree in Modern Philosophy: Science & Metaphysics (1995). His bachelor's and master's degrees concentrated on the Philosophy of Science. He has taught at Washington University, St. Louis University, and Webster University and is the author of several works, including The Basic Ideas and Institutions of Islam (2008), Locke's Philosophy of Science and Metaphysics (2007), and The Essential Ideas of Islamic Philosophy (2006).

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