

Al-Ghazali on the Benefits of Friendship

M.Sh. Fayzulloeva*

Candidate of historical sciences, the Tajik State University of Law, Business and Politics (TSULBP), Tajikistan

***Corresponding Author:** *M.Sh. Fayzulloeva, Candidate of historical sciences, the Tajik State University of Law, Business and Politics (TSULBP), Tajikistan*

ABSTRACT

This article interprets al-Ghazali's ethical ideas about friendship, norms, conditions for strengthening and the benefits of friendship

Keywords: *friendship, sincerity, loyalty, unanimity, patience, forgiveness*

INTRODUCTION

Muhammad Ghazali is one of the most prominent philosophers of the East, who left a great spiritual heritage. Al-Ghazali researched many areas of science, including ethics. He also talked about the benefits of friendship.

Friendship is one of the basic terms of ethics. Friendship is a tender relationship between people that brings them closer together in all directions. Friendship arises from the coincidence of the nature of people, and it reflects their love. Good morality is the foundation of friendship. However, irascibility, forgetfulness, selfishness, hypocrisy, betrayal, laziness destroy friendship.

Al-Ghazali advises to be friends with those who are good in speech and behavior, and those who are wise deserve friendship and conversation. It's necessary to be friends with the poor and broken hearts. People who communicate with each other while studying, travelling or in society are also friends. When friends are experiencing difficulties together, their friendship will be strengthened.

Al-Ghazali considers such obligations a condition of friendship, that is, a person must express his love and compassion to a friend so that love can grow in his heart; urge a friend to be honest, and this advice should be given in private; if a mistake is made, need to apologize to a friend, but if a friend does not apologize, should forgive and be patient, pray for a friend and his family, be faithful to a friend, love his friends, consider his enemies as enemies, do not extort, do not want anything from a friend, and besides friendship,

visit a friend and find out his condition, hide his mistakes and secrets of a friend (except evil).

As Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) said, friendship will strengthen by greeting, modesty and by good pronouncing the name.

According to al-Ghazali, five categories of people are not worthy of friendship, that is, should not pay attention to the ignorant, that his stupidity affects a person, he wants good, but does the opposite, and does not distinguish between good and evil; from a contentious person who denies the truth and inclines to evil; from a deceiver who is proud of his lies; from the heartbreaking who can leave in trouble; from a depraved person who can cheat in any case. Also, should not be friends with an oppressor, a heretic and shameless rooks who mislead people. Wine is the cause of wrongdoing, therefore, a drinking person should be exhorted with soft words to refrain from drinking, and if he does not accept this, he should be punished accordingly, but he should not be despised.

Al-Ghazali teaches that everyone needs a friend in life. But not everyone, especially those who cannot control their emotions, should not deserve friendship and conversation. Before making friends, in first need to test a person, if he divulges flaws and secrets, then he is not for friendship, most likely, he may cause trouble and accuse the partner of villainy.

Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) advised seeking refuge with God from a bad friend who would spread the shortcomings of his friend and hide his good deeds.

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Really, it's hard to live without a friend. Only faithful friends can help a person in difficulty. The ancestors of Tajiks said that friendship brings happiness, and enmity is only suffering.

Al-Ghazali's views on friendship are very important and serve as a guide for choosing and recognizing loyal friends and strengthening friendships.

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