

## Ethics of Marriage in the Doctrines of Al-Ghazali

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### ABSTRACT

*This article reflects the views of Abuhamid al-Ghazali on the nature and essence of marriage as an important part of morality, on the rules of formation of marriage and its goodness. The article is written based on the thinker's books.*

**Keywords:** *ethics, morality, family, marriage, men, women.*

### INTRODUCTION

Abuhamid Muhammad al-Ghastly (1059-1111) is a famous philosopher in medieval period. He stated in his teachings about marriage and the ethics of marriage. According to the scientist, the essence of marriage is that it serves to control passion (nerves shaven). Marriage is like drinking and eating is a must for health, which allows for the fulfilment of a moral obligation.

Al-Ghastly recalls that a man can save a family from poverty, but cannot live with an immoral woman. Therefore, a man in choosing a spouse should be careful and pay attention to her morality. He calls the purposeful woman "the supremacy of life" "the best good", "the strong strength of her husband" for a man. He describes chastity as suppression of passion. According to Al-Ghastly, in order to create a family, a woman should have the following qualities: generous and beauty; not demanding much from marriage; virgin or single, so that the heart is given only to her husband; must know her kind and origin which is a sign of decency. Al-Ghastly recommends that a man should not marry his half-blood, it is likely that the child will be born unhealthy; if a man marries for the sake of wealth or fasting, is deceived, or takes a spouse from the rich (relative to himself) might be affected by this family. It also defines the rights of women in choosing a husband, that is, a young girl should not create a marriage with an old man; with a drug addict, a drunkard, a gambler, a thief, a libertine, a traitor who is a faulty mistake which can cause misunderstanding, conflict, calamity and unhappiness of a family. Marriage is a sacred act and the instructions for mankind. Marriage should be created voluntarily

on the basis of love. Therefore, Al Ghastly advises that before entering into marriage one should pay attention to the following issues: couples should love each other, since the goal of marriage is to find a best friend and with him (or her) to continue its kind or race; a man must have superiority in age, height, property and position relative to a woman; a woman should have the advantages of beauty, tenderness, gentleness and patience with respect to a man.

Ghastly describes the conditions of marriage, in which the consent of the woman is necessary, two honest (not depraved) people should be a witness, the wedding should be organized on the advice of two parties, i.e. the families of the bride and the groom, if possible treat guests, singing and dancing at the wedding is a good tradition, but it should not last long.

Al-Ghastly lists the positive aspects of marriage: firstly, marriage is the pure way to continue the race; secondly, a respectable child raises the authority of the parents; in the third, parents after death receive pleasure from the prayer of their child; fourthly, the difficulties of the family will bring up the person. He also notes the negative sides of marriage. Firstly, marriage stops from constant learning of knowledge. Secondly, if a man does not endure the work and by unclean means, provides for his family, then he becomes a villain or imposing the family's needs on the spouse and causing wife's suffering, then he commits a sin. Therefore, a man must first have a profession, work and housing, and then he can start a family. In the third, if a man leaves his family, his prayers will not be accepted until he returns to the household. In fourth, the marriage is likely to attract the attention

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of the man completely and he will be far from worship. Because to be a family man and to pray regularly is a difficult matter. Therefore, marriage is permissible for the person who can perform the duties of the family.

Al-Ghazali considers eight factors for the welfare of marriage - masculinity, faith, friendliness, good habits, material security, friendship with their relatives and generation because they contribute to the health, peace and happiness of the family. According to the scholar, marriage is beauty and goodness, and love between husband and wife is one of the signs of heaven on earth. He mentions the word of the Highest: "And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them, and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought" (Koran, 30:21). Al-Ghazali stresses that one who is unmarried can withstand him from over-adultery, but cannot withstand his heart and eyes from over-adultery. Al-Ghazali's ideas on marriage are very significant in modern times. The scientist investigated the ethical standards for the structure of the family. He considers marriage an important factor in improving the morality of the individual. So, as marriage serves for the decency of man. He

encourages spouses and society to respect and value marriage as a sacred union. So, as marriage is the foundation of the family, the family is the cell of society.

Unfortunately, marriage is a pressing social problem of today's society. According to statistics, the number of divorces in most countries is growing every year. The reason for the breakup of the family is not to comply with ethical standards. Of course, everyone has the right to speak and cancel the marriage, and this is his personal freedom. However, preserving marriage is a moral requirement.

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