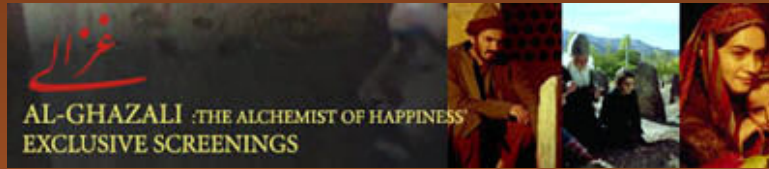


# Al-Ghazali

## The Alchemist of Happiness

A Film by Ovidio Salazar



Exploring the life and impact of the greatest spiritual and legal philosopher in Islamic history, this film examines Ghazali's existential **crisis of faith that arose from his rejection of religious fanaticism**, and reveals profound parallels with our own times.



**ABU HAMID AL-GHAZALI**, (1058-1111) is one of the greatest Islamic Jurists, theologians and mystical thinkers. He learned various branches of traditional Islamic religious sciences in his home town of Tus, Gurgan and Nishapur in the northern part of Iran. He was also involved in Sufi practices from an early age.



He was appointed head of the Nizamiyyah College at Baghdad in AH 484/AD 1091. As the intellectual head of the Islamic community, he was busy lecturing on Islamic jurisprudence at the College, and also refuting heresies and responding to questions from all segments of the community. Four years later, however, al-Ghazali fell into a serious spiritual crisis and finally left Baghdad, renouncing his career and the world in search of answers to the questions to his faith



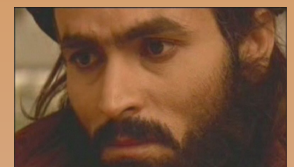
After wandering in Syria and Palestine for about two years and finishing the pilgrimage to Mecca, he returned to Tus, where he was engaged in writing, Sufi practices and teaching his disciples until his death. In the meantime he resumed teaching for a few years at the Nizamiyyah College in Nishapur



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Ghazali became known as the proof of Islam and his path of love and spiritual excellence overcame the pitfalls of the organised religion of his day. His path was largely abandoned by early 20th century Muslim reformers for the more strident and less tolerant school of IbnTaymiyya. Director Ovidio Salazar reminds us that despite today's misconceptions of Islam as a result of recent media coverage, this man has been universally considered to have attained the ideal of their religion by Muslims themselves



**This film argues that Ghazali's Islam is the antidote for today's terror**