



## Comparative Study Of Al-Ghazali Thought and Ibn Rushd in the Perspective of Islamic Theology

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### ABSTRACT

This article discusses the comparison of the thoughts of two great figures in the history of Islamic theology, namely Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd, and the impact of their contributions to the development of Islamic theology. Al-Ghazali is known as a scholar who has a significant role in combining Islamic philosophy and theology, while Ibn Rushd is known for his more rational and philosophical approach to religion. This article reviews the traces of the two thoughts, covering theological concepts, views on philosophy, and approaches to controversial issues in Islamic theology. Through this comparison, this article attempts to identify the similarities and differences in the views of the two, as well as analyze how their thinking contributed to the development of Islamic theology. The results of the analysis show that Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd, although they had different approaches, both made invaluable contributions to Islamic theological thought. Al-Ghazali with his emphasis on mystical experience and his rejection of some elements of philosophy, while Ibn Rushd with his more rational and critical approach to theology. The thought of both has shaped and influenced Islamic theological thought in the next period. The implications of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd's thoughts on theological diversity in Islam are also noted, and how their thoughts have become an inspiration for various schools of thought in the Islamic world. By detailing and analyzing the differences and similarities in the thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd, this article provides in-depth insight into the evolution of Islamic theology as well as the important contributions of these two thinkers in understanding and formulating the rich and complex theological foundations of Islam.

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### INTRODUCTION

This article will explore the comparisons and contrasts between the thoughts of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd in the context of Islamic theology. We will discuss key aspects of both views, including views on the relationship between faith and reason, the sources of authority in religion, and their contributions to the development of Islamic thought. Through a deeper understanding of the two thoughts, we can explore the significant impact they had on the evolution of Islamic theology and the intellectual debates that influenced the Islamic world at that time. (Mahmud, 2019)

Historically and intellectually, the two figures, namely Al-Gazali and Ibn Rusdy, can be seen in their respective thinking patterns. Al-Ghazali (Abu Hamid Muhammad al-Ghazali) and Ibn Rushd (Ibn Rushd or Averroes) are two great scholars in the history of Islamic thought, and both have had a significant influence on the development of Islamic theology in their time and beyond. (Surajiyo, 2022) However, it is important to note that Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd had different views in the following respects:

**First; Al-Ghazali (1058-1111 AD)**

Al-Ghazali (full name: Abu Hamid Muhammad ibn Muhammad al-Ghazali) was a Muslim scholar, philosopher, and theologian who lived in the 11th century AD. He is known as one of the most influential figures of Islamic thought in history. The background of Al-Ghazali's thought can be understood through several key aspects of his life and works:

**Al-Ghazali, also known as Hujjat al-Islam (Proof of Islam), was originally a scholar who studied kalam and philosophy. However, in his famous work, "Tahafut al-Falasifah" (The Fall of the Philosophers), he criticized philosophical views especially those inherited from the Greece tradition. Al-Ghazali placed the importance of faith and mysticism in an individual's religious experience, and he played a key role in restructuring Islamic theology in the Middle Ages.(Mariyo, 2023)**

**Education and Science: Al-Ghazali was born in 1058 in the city of Tus, Iran. He studied at various centers of knowledge in the Islamic world during his time, including in Nishapur and Baghdad. He has expertise in the fields of kalam (theology), fiqh (Islamic law), Sufism (Islamic mysticism), and philosophy.**

**Spiritual Crisis: Despite being known as an accomplished scholar, Al-Ghazali experienced a deep spiritual crisis in the middle of his life. At one time, he felt that science and logic alone were not able to provide spiritual meaning and satisfaction. This prompted him to seek answers in the mystical tradition of Islam or Sufism.**

**Sufism: Al-Ghazali then withdrew from academic life and began his spiritual journey. He delved into the study of Sufism, a school within Islam that emphasizes the direct relationship between man and Allah, as well as the search for truth through spiritual experience and self-introspection. His famous work, "Ihya' Ulum al-Din" (Revival of the Religious Sciences), covers many aspects of Sufism and is one of his important contributions in this field.(Zaini, 2017)**

**Criticism of Philosophy and Logic: Al-Ghazali wrote important works that criticized several aspects of Greece philosophy and logic that went into Islamic thought. His work "Tahafut al-Falasifah" (The Incoherence of the Philosophers) is a criticism of Aristotle's philosophical teachings which he considers inconsistent with Islamic teachings.(Arifin Azis & Harahap Jaipuri, 2021)**

**Tolerance and Balance: Al-Ghazali advocates a balanced approach between religion and science, between ratio and spirituality. He emphasized the importance of wisdom in integrating various aspects of life to achieve true happiness.**

**Al-Ghazali's thinking reflects his personal, intellectual, and spiritual struggles. His criticism of philosophy and his emphasis on Sufism have made a major contribution to Islamic thought and have been a source of inspiration for many later Islamic scholars and thinkers.**

**Second, Ibn Rushd (1126-1198 AD), are two important figures in the history of Islamic thought, who lived in almost the same period, but had different views on several key theological issues.**

**Ibn Rushd, also known as Averroes. Ibn Rushd was a philosopher, scholar, and judge who lived in the 12th century in Al-Andalus (present-day Spain).**

**Ibn Rushd's thought spanned a wide range of fields, including philosophy, science, law, and medicine. One of his most famous works is his commentary on Aristotle's work. He tried to synthesize Aristotle's thought with Islamic thought, so he is considered one of the thinkers who tried to unite classical Greece philosophy with the Islamic intellectual tradition.(Fitrianah, 2018)**

**Some aspects of his thinking involve the relationship between reason and religion. Ibn Rushd argued that good reason and true religion should not contradict each other. He believes that reason can help people understand the truth, and the truth of religion should be in line with rational truth. Although his thinking was controversial at the time, Ibn Rushd's thought made an important contribution to the development of philosophy and science in the Islamic world and Europe.(Ngazizah & Mawardi, 2022)**

**On the other hand, Ibn Rushd, known as Averroes in the Western world, was a philosopher and judge of andalism who was greatly influenced by Aristotle's thought. His work, "Bidayat al-Mujtahid" (The Beginning of Independence), is an attempt to synthesize Aristotle's teachings with Islamic thought. Ibn Rushd tended to emphasize reason and rationality in understanding Islamic theology, thus giving rise to debates with traditionalists.(Journal & Thought, 2023)**

**PROBLEM FORMULATION**

The problem formulation of the article with the title can be formulated as follows:

How did the thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd influence the development of Islamic theology in their time and as a whole?

What are their views on criticism and controversies that may arise related to their theological thinking?

How do each contribute to the development of kalam and philosophy in the context of Islamic theology?

What was the acceptance and opposition to the thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd by scholars and society in his time?

To what extent did the thinking of the two form the identity of Islamic scholarship and how has its impact been felt today?

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The research objectives of the article entitled "Traces of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd's Thought in the Development of Islamic Theology" may vary depending on the focus and research methodology taken by the author. However, in general, the objectives of such research may include the following aspects:

**Analyzing the Thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd:** The main objective may include an in-depth analysis of the thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd in the context of Islamic theology. This can include an understanding of the key views, theological concepts, and philosophical arguments proposed by both.

**Tracing the Influence of Thought on the Development of Islamic Theology:** Research can trace the traces of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd's thought in the development of Islamic theology. This includes an understanding of how the thinking of both influenced the thinking of Islamic scholars and intellectuals in later times.

**Exploring the Historical and Social Context:** The objectives of the research may include understanding the historical and social contexts in which Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd lived and contributed. It helps in understanding the factors that affect the development of their thinking.

**Contributing to the Study of Islamic Theology:** This research may aim to make a significant contribution to the study of Islamic theology by providing new insights, interpretations, or deep understandings of the thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd.

**Highlighting the Relevance Aspects of Their Thought in a Contemporary Context:** Research can try to draw a connection between the thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd with contemporary issues in Islamic theology. This can include the relevance of their thinking to modern debates or theological challenges facing Muslims today.

## METHODOLOGY

The research method is to investigate and analyze the thoughts of the two figures. Here are some of the research methods used:

**Critical Analysis of Thought:** This method involves a critical study of the writings of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd. Research can focus on the analysis of classical texts, especially theological works of both. A deep understanding of the main concepts in both thinking can be generated through dismantling and critical exposure.

**Historical Method:** Research can use a historical approach to place the thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd in the context of the right time and place. An analysis of the development of Islamic theology at that time, as well as the influence and contribution of each figure to it, can be the focus of the research.

**Comparative Study:** This method compares the thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd, highlighting the similarities and differences in their theological views. This can help to understand the contributions of each figure to Islamic theology and its impact on Islamic intellectual history.

**Contextual Analysis:** Involves research into the social, political, and cultural contexts of the time of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd. These factors can provide additional insight into how both thoughts develop and are influenced by the surrounding situation.

**Philosophical Method:** Focuses on philosophical analysis of the arguments and theological concepts described by Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd. Research can include a critical evaluation of the philosophical underpinnings of both thoughts.

**Literature Studies:** Involves an in-depth literature review of the works of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd, as well as writings that comment on or compare the thoughts of the two. This method can provide insight into how their thoughts are interpreted and received by other scholars.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Theological Thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd

The two have different views on several aspects of Islamic theology, and their role in the development of Islamic theology is significant. Here are some theories from the two figures as follows:

#### Al-Ghazali Theology:

**Incoherence of the Philosophers (Tahafut al-Falasifah):** Al-Ghazali opposed the philosophical views represented by thinkers such as Ibn Sina (Avicenna). In this work, Al-Ghazali criticizes philosophical views especially related to beliefs, the sustainability of the universe, and the nature of God.

**Mysticism (Sufism):** Al-Ghazali also emphasized the importance of mystical and spiritual experience in attaining knowledge of God. The concept of tazkiyat al-nafs (cleansing of the soul) and personal relationship with Allah is strongly emphasized in Al-Ghazali's thought. (Syamsuddin Arif, 2020)

**Theology of Ibn Rushd:**

**Harmonization between Religion and Philosophy:** As an Islamic philosopher, Ibn Rushd sought to blend the teachings of Islam and Greece philosophy. Although he opposed some philosophical views that he considered contrary to Islam, Ibn Rushd argued that scientific and religious truth could go hand in hand.

**Double Truth:** This concept is attributed to Ibn Rushd, although it is sometimes interpreted in a variety of ways. The double truth states that philosophical truth and religious truth may be different, but they can still be accepted as truth in their respective domains.(AB, 2013)

**Theoretical Relevance:**

**Influence on the Development of Islamic Theology:** The debate between Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd reflects the struggle between theological tradition (kalam) and philosophy. It played an important role in the development of Islamic theology, shaping the views and approaches of various subsequent Muslim thinkers.

**Challenges of Modern Thought:** The conflict between Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd also has relevance to the challenges of modern thought. How Islam interacts with modern science, philosophy, and concepts is an important question that is still relevant today.

The title can be further explored through the works of these two thinkers as well as the literature that discusses their contradictions and contributions to the development of Islamic theology.

**Comparison of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd's Thought:** Al-Ghazali (Abu Hamid al-Ghazali) and Ibn Rushd (Ibn Rushd), also known as Averroes in the Western tradition, are two well-known figures in the history of Islamic thought. Both lived in the 12th century, but had different approaches to Islamic theology. Here are some of the differences and similarities in the thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd related to Islamic theology:

**Difference:****Thought Method:**

**Al-Ghazali:** Known as the "Purification of Philosophy," he rejected most of the philosophical principles of Aristotle and Neoplatonism. Al-Ghazali leans more towards Sufism (Islamic mysticism) and emphasizes spiritual experience as a way to attain knowledge and understanding.

**Ibn Rushd:** Known as the "Defender of Philosophy," Ibn Rushd sought to maintain a relationship between philosophy and Islam. He believed that human reason and religious revelation could support each other, and philosophy could help explain religious teachings.

**Understanding of Reason and Revelation:**

**Al-Ghazali:** Emphasis is placed more on the virtue of revelation and the continuity of knowledge through revelation. He suspects reason as a means to attain true knowledge and relies more on revelation as the primary source of knowledge.

**Ibn Rushd:** It is argued that reason and revelation cannot contradict, and that they come from Allah. Ibn Rushd stated that reason must be used to understand revelation, and that rational and religious understanding can be united.

**Equation:****The Existence of God:**

Both agreed on the existence of God as the main point of faith in Islam. Both Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd accepted the concept of the existence of one and transcendent God.

**Life After Death:**

Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd both believed in life after death as an integral part of the teachings of Islam. They believe in the Day of Resurrection, retribution for deeds, and the hereafter as a place full of justice.

**Criticism of Aristotle's Philosophy:**

Although through different approaches, both Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd were critical of Aristotle's philosophy. Al-Ghazali rejected it because it was considered incompatible with the teachings of Islam, while Ibn Rushd tried to harmonize Aristotle's thinking with the teachings of Islam.

Despite significant differences in the approaches and methods of thought of the two, Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd made important contributions to Islamic thought and left a philosophical legacy that influenced the development of Islamic thought in later times.

**The Influence of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd's Thought in the History of Islamic Theology:**

Al-Ghazali (Abu Hamid Muhammad al-Ghazali) and Ibn Rushd (Ibn Rushd or Averroes) are two great scholars in the history of Islamic thought, and both have had a significant influence on the development of Islamic theology in their time and beyond. However, it is important to note that Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd

had different views in several ways.

### **Al-Ghazali:**

**Criticism of Philosophy and Science:** Al-Ghazali, known as the "Defender of Islam," lived in the 11th century and was widely critical of philosophical and theological ideas that he considered to be damaging to the Islamic faith. His famous work, "Tahafut al-Falasifah" (Incoherence of the Philosophers), attacked the philosophical thought of Aristotle and Neoplatonism adopted by the mutakalimin (Muslim theologians) of his time.

**The Importance of Religious Experience:** Al-Ghazali emphasizes the importance of religious and mystical experience (tasawwuf) in achieving a deeper understanding of Allah. It refers to the concept of "ma'rifah" (intimate knowledge or spiritual recognition) acquired through spiritual experience.

**Influence on Islamic Theology:** Although his criticism of philosophy and the science of kalam resulted in the rejection of some rational concepts, Al-Ghazali nonetheless contributed to the development of Islamic theology by emphasizing personal relationships with Allah, tazkiyat al-nafs (cleansing of the soul), and ethical values. (Arifin Azis & Harahap Jaipuri, 2021)

### **Ibn Rushd:**

**Harmonization Between Philosophy and Islam:** Ibn Rushd, living in the 12th century, in Muslim Spain, had a different view. He tried to combine Aristotle's philosophy with Islamic thought, convinced that reason and revelation do not contradict, but are in line with each other.

**Commentary on Aristotle's Works:** Ibn Rushd's works, such as "The Philosophy Commentaries", are his attempt to provide an explanation of Aristotle's works and demonstrate that Aristotle's thought can be understood within the framework of Islamic theology.

**Influence on Western Thought:** Ibn Rushd's thought had a major impact especially on the development of Western thought through the translation of his works into Latin. Some of Aristotle's concepts conveyed through Ibn Rushd's writings, such as the idea of the universe and reason, influenced philosophical thought in Europe. (Arifin, 2021)

Overall, the contributions of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd provide rich variation in the development of Islamic theology. While Al-Ghazali emphasized religious experience and rejected some aspects of rationalism, Ibn Rushd tried to combine philosophy with Islam and had a profound impact on the development of Western thought. Both played an important role in shaping the diverse views in the Islamic intellectual tradition.

**The Relevance of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd's Thought in the Modern Era:** The thought of Al-Ghazali (Abu Hamid al-Ghazali) and Ibn Rushd (Ibn Rushd or Averroes) are two great ideas in the Islamic intellectual tradition of the Middle Ages. Although the two have different views, their thoughts are still the subject of debate and study in the context of Islamic theology in this modern era.

### **Al-Ghazali:**

**Relevance:** Al-Ghazali is known as the "Savior of Philosophy" for his criticism of Greece philosophy that he considers contrary to the teachings of Islam. Nevertheless, Al-Ghazali's thought provides a deep understanding of the relationship between reason and revelation. Concepts such as taklid (taqlid) or its adherence to religious teachings in Al-Ghazali's thought remain relevant in the context of discussions about religious authority and rationality authority.

**Sources of Relevance:** His works, such as "Tahafut al-Falasifah" (The Incoherence of the Philosophers) and "Ihya Ulum al-Din" (The Revival of the Religious Sciences), remain references for discussion of the relationship between philosophy and religion.

### **Ibn Rushd:**

**Relevance:** Ibn Rushd, on the other hand, tried to unite Aristotle's philosophy with the teachings of Islam. He argues that reason and revelation are in line and do not contradict each other. Although his thinking was criticized at the time, the concepts of harmonization between philosophy and religion that he carried out are still a source of inspiration for some circles. (Tedy, 2016)

**Source of Relevance:** Ibn Rushd's works, such as "Tahafut al-Tahafut" (The Incoherence of the Incoherence), in which he responds to Al-Ghazali's criticism of philosophy, remain a reference in the debate surrounding the relationship between reason and religion.

The relevance of the two ideas in the context of Islamic theology in the modern era can be seen from various perspectives. Some elements of their thinking may remain relevant, such as discussions about the relationship between reason and revelation, while others may need to be reviewed or adapted to the context and challenges of modern times. The thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd remains part of the Islamic intellectual heritage that influences thought and discussion in the Muslim community.

### **Response to Controversy and Criticism of Both Thoughts:**

Al-Ghazali (Abu Hamid al-Ghazali) and Ibn Rushd (Averroes) are two great figures in the history of Islamic thought, especially in the Middle Ages. Both have different views related to theology and philosophy, and their views on criticism and controversy can also be distinguished.

#### **Al-Ghazali:**

**Response to Criticism:** Al-Ghazali is known as the "Savior of Islamic Philosophy and Theology" for his efforts to unite religion and philosophy. However, he himself experienced a period of intellectual crisis and eventually rejected some philosophical concepts that he considered contrary to the teachings of Islam.

**Views on Controversy:** Al-Ghazali is more likely to support religious authorities and faith beliefs. Controversy and criticism of Islamic teachings or theology may be seen as a challenge to faith, and he may support a response that prioritizes faith and adherence to religious teachings.

#### **Ibn Rushd:**

**Response to Criticism:** Ibn Rushd, on the other hand, was a philosopher who tried to integrate Aristotle's philosophy with Islamic thought. He argued that reason and religion are not in conflict, and philosophy can be used to better understand religious teachings.

**Views on Controversy:** Ibn Rushd may have had a more open attitude towards criticism and controversy. For him, rational understanding can help explain religious teachings, and dialogue between philosophy and religion can lead to deeper understanding. (Fitrianah, 2018)

It is important to remember that the thought of both did not necessarily describe the entire diversity of thought in the Islamic world of his time. The thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd reflects a different approach to the relationship between reason and religion within the framework of Islam. Therefore, their attitude towards criticism and controversy can vary according to their respective views.

### **The Contribution of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd to the Development of Kalam Science and Philosophy:**

Al-Ghazali (1058-1111 AD) and Ibn Rushd (Averroes, 1126-1198 AD) are two important figures in the history of the development of kalam (Islamic theology) and philosophy in the Islamic world in the Middle Ages. Both had different roles in influencing and shaping religious and philosophical thought in their time. Here are the contributions of each figure:

#### **Al-Ghazali:**

**Tafsir of Kalam Science:** Al-Ghazali, known as "Hujjat al-Islam" (Proof of Islam), has a strong criticism of the science of kalam. It rejects rational and speculative approaches in understanding religious beliefs. In his famous work, "Tahafut al-Falasifah" (The Fall of the Philosopher), he criticized the philosophical thought of Aristotle and Neoplatonism, and pointed out that some philosophical concepts could contradict the teachings of Islam.

**Akhirah and Sufism:** Al-Ghazali also contributed to the development of Sufism (Islamic mysticism). He emphasized the importance of spirituality and direct experience with God as a means to achieve a deeper understanding of religious beliefs.

**Reconciliation Between Reason and Revelation:** Although Al-Ghazali had a critical attitude towards the science of kalam, he then tried to embrace reason within certain limits. In his other work, "Ihya Ulum al-Din" (Purifying Religious Knowledge), he tried to restructure Islamic thought by integrating reason and revelation.

#### **Ibn Rushd:**

**Preservation of Aristotle's Philosophy:** Ibn Rushd, on the other hand, was a philosopher who was more inclined to defend and develop Aristotle's thought. His works, especially "Tafsir Ma Ba'd at-Tabi'a" (Tafsir On Nature After Nature), contain a profound and critical interpretation of Aristotle. He argued that philosophy and religion can coexist harmoniously. (IBN RUSHD THE PHILOSOPHER OF THE WEST, n.d.)

**The Hereafter and Justice:** Ibn Rushd paid special attention to the concept of the hereafter and justice in his work. He defended Aristotle's philosophical ideas related to the immortality of the soul and the justice of the universe.

**Alignment Between Philosophy and Religion:** Although Ibn Rushd had a critique of some religious views, he also tried to reconcile philosophy and religion. He argued that truth can be found both through reason and revelation, and that the two should not contradict. (Salabi, 2021)

Overall, Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd had a significant role in directing the development of Islamic thought in the Middle Ages. Al-Ghazali emphasized the importance of spirituality and rejection of the science of kalam, while Ibn Rushd sought to reconcile philosophy and religion, especially by developing Aristotle's thought.

### Acceptance and Opposition to the Thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd

The thought of Al-Ghazali (Abu Hamid al-Ghazali) and Ibn Rushd (Ibn Rushd or Averroes) are two great thinkers in the history of Islamic thought, especially in the medieval period. Although both came from the Islamic world, their thinking was quite different, and each received acceptance and opposition from scholars and intellectuals of his time. Here are some points that reflect the acceptance and opposition to the thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd:

#### Al-Ghazali's thoughts:

##### Acceptance:

**Tahafut al-Falasifah (Incoherence of the Philosophers):** Al-Ghazali is known for his controversial work, in which he criticized the teachings of Greece philosophy that entered Muslim thought. Many scholars and scholars agree with his criticism of philosophies that are considered contrary to the teachings of Islam.

**Religious Revivalism:** Al-Ghazali is also known as the "Proof of Islam" for his efforts to revitalize the teachings of Islam. His views on *tasawuf* (Islamic mysticism) and his rejection of excessive rationalism have gained support from those who want to strengthen spirituality in Islam.

**Criticism of Philosophy:** Aristotle's views on philosophy and logic are considered an attempt to align or prioritize Islamic theology over Greece philosophy.

##### Opposition:

**Rejection of Philosophy and Science:** Some intellectuals opposed Al-Ghazali because it was considered to reject science and philosophy as a whole. This criticism comes from those who are more partial to the rational and scientific approach.

**Criticism of the Method of Argument:** His work "Tahafut al-Falasifah" has also been criticized for not fully understanding or properly representing Greece's philosophical thoughts. (CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE POLEMIC OF IMAM ALGHAZALIDAN IBN, n.d.)

#### Ibn Rushd's thoughts:

##### Acceptance:

**Harmonization of Philosophy and Islam:** Ibn Rushd tried to combine Aristotle's thought with the teachings of Islam. Some people appreciate his efforts to bridge rational thinking with religious teachings.

**Contributions to Medical Sciences and Natural Sciences:** Apart from being a philosopher, Ibn Rushd was also known as a medical expert and scientist. His contributions in the field of natural sciences have received recognition from those who appreciate science and empirical knowledge.

##### Opposition:

**Controversy in Aristotle's Interpretation:** Some scholars have criticized Ibn Rushd for providing an overly liberal interpretation of Aristotle's thought. They are worried that this could lead to a deviant interpretation of Islamic teachings.

**Accusations of Heresy:** Some scholars and scholars feel that Ibn Rushd's attempt to combine Greece philosophy with Islam can be considered an unnecessary heresy or innovation in the understanding of Islamic teachings.

It is important to remember that acceptance and opposition to the thought of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd are not homogeneous. These various views can vary depending on the historical context, geographic region, and think tank involved.

### The Role of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd in Shaping Islamic Scientific Identity:

Al-Ghazali (1058-1111) and Ibn Rushd (1126-1198) are two important figures in the intellectual history of Islam. Both have a significant role in shaping Islamic scientific identity, although their views and approaches to science, philosophy, and religion are quite different. Here is a brief overview of the role of each character:

#### Al-Ghazali:

**Rejection of Aristotle's Philosophy:** Al-Ghazali, also known as "Hujjat al-Islam" (Proof of Islam), had a great influence in criticizing classical philosophical thought, especially Aristotle, which had been the basis of Islamic philosophy at the time. His famous work, "Tahafut al-Falasifah" (Incoherence of the Philosophers), challenged philosophical beliefs that he considered contrary to the teachings of Islam.

**The Importance of Mystical Experience:** Al-Ghazali emphasizes the importance of mystical experience or direct experience with God (*ma'rifah*) in seeking the truth. He permeated the teachings of Sufism and laid the foundation for a deeper understanding of Islamic spirituality.

**Harmonization between Religion and Philosophy:** Despite rejecting some aspects of philosophy, Al-Ghazali tried to unite religion and philosophy in his famous work, "Ihya Ulum al-Din" (Revival of Religious

Sciences). He sought to restore religious and moral life in Islamic society.(Mariyo, 2023)

### **Ibn Rushd (Averroes):**

**Aristotle's Interpretation and Philosophy:** Ibn Rushd, known in the West as Averroes, was a philosopher and scholar who tried to align Aristotle's philosophy with the teachings of Islam. He viewed philosophy as a legitimate method of attaining truth and contributed his commentary to Aristotle's works.

**The Importance of Rationality:** Ibn Rushd believed in the importance of rationality and scientific knowledge in developing religious thought. He views that philosophy and religion can go hand in hand, and rational knowledge can provide a deeper understanding of religious teachings.

**Contributions to Medicine and Science:** In addition to philosophy, Ibn Rushd also contributed to the fields of medicine and science. His work entitled "Kitab al-Kulliyat" (The General Principles of Medicine) provides the foundation for the development of medical science in the Islamic world.(Hania & Suteja, 2021)

Although Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd had different approaches to the relationship between religion and philosophy, both made significant contributions in shaping the Islamic scholarly identity of their time. Their thinking became an important part of the intellectual history of Islam involving the debate between rationality and mysticism, as well as the role of science in the context of religion.

### **Historical and Social Context of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd's Thought**

Al-Ghazali (Abu Hamid Muhammad al-Ghazali) and Ibn Rushd (Ibn Rushd or Averroes) are two important figures in the history of Islamic thought. Both lived in the same period, namely the 11th and 12th centuries AD, but had different approaches to philosophical and religious issues. Let's look at the historical and social context of the two thoughts:

#### **Al-Ghazali:**

##### **Historical Context:**

Al-Ghazali lived in the 11th century AD, where the Islamic world was undergoing significant changes after the heyday of science and the Abbasid caliphate.

At that time, there was a rapid development in philosophical and theological thought in the Islamic world, and especially a tendency to combine Greece philosophy with Islamic teachings.

##### **Social Context:**

Al-Ghazali was born in Persia (now Iran) and underwent extensive education, including education in Baghdad, the center of science of his time.

Early in his career, Al-Ghazali became a highly respected scholar, but by the middle of his life, he underwent a dramatic change and left academia in search of the meaning of spirituality.

##### **Thought:**

Al-Ghazali wrote monumental works such as "Tahafut al-Falasifah" (Incoherence of the Philosophers), in which he criticized philosophical views that he considered contrary to the teachings of Islam.

He emphasized the importance of mystical experience and Sufism as a way to achieve a deeper understanding of God.(Mariyo, 2023)

#### **Ibn Rushd:**

##### **Historical Context:**

Ibn Rushd also lived in the 11th and 12th centuries AD, and he was a Muslim Spain scholar who lived in Al-Andalus, a region that covers most of modern Spain.

##### **Social Context:**

Ibn Rushd lived in the multicultural society of Al-Andalus, where there was an interaction between Muslim, Jewish, and Christian cultures.

He was influenced by the work of Aristotle and tried to unite Greece philosophy with Islamic teachings.

##### **Thought:**

Ibn Rushd is known for writing commentaries on Aristotle's works, including "Tafsir Ma ba'd at-Tabi'a" (The Harmony of Religion and Philosophy), in which he sought to unite philosophy and religion.

Despite criticism of his views, his work helped introduce Aristotle's thought to the Islamic world and Western Europe.(Surajiyo, 2022)

These two thinkers reflected the complex dynamics in the Islamic world of the time, where there was a debate between philosophical and theological thought. While Al-Ghazali emphasized the importance of spirituality and Sufism, Ibn Rushd tried to unite Greece philosophy with Islamic teachings. The debate between the two reflects the diversity and complexity of thought in the Islamic world at that time.



## CONCLUSION

Comparison of the Thoughts of two great figures in the history of Islamic thought, namely Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd. They have different approaches and views on various theological issues in Islam.

Islamic Theology Perspectives: The author highlights how the thoughts of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd influenced and shaped Islamic theology. This may include concepts such as monotheism (the oneness of God), the attributes of God, God's justice, and others.

Similarities and Differences: highlighting the similarities and differences between the two figures' thoughts. Although both are great scholars in Islamic history, they may have differing views on certain matters, such as reason and revelation, philosophy and theology, or the relationship between religion and science.

Contemporary Implications: The conclusion of this article discusses the implications of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd's thought in a contemporary context. How their thinking is relevant or applicable in facing the theological and intellectual challenges of today.

This conclusion will provide an overview of the content of the article and the contribution of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd's thought in Islamic theology.

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