



**On Death<sup>1</sup>**  
*Imām Abū Ḥamid al-Ghazālī*  
Translated by Abu Hasan  
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All praise to Him who made death snap the necks of the powerful; and break the backs of the breakers and the mighty; and with it, He has cut short the aspirations of the Caesars – they who did not check their [infinite] hopes by remembering death, the disliked.

They remained negligent, until the promise of Allāh came true and shoved them into a pit; they were dislodged from their palaces and thrown into their graves. They were taken away from the shining lights in the cradles to the darkness of their sepulchers; they were interrupted from playing with little girls and boys and sent to face the terrifying company of vermin and worms.

They were removed from the luxury of rich food and drink, to wallow in the soil; from the comfort of good company to the desolateness of being lonely. They were thrown away from their comfortable mattresses into a pernicious burrow.

Heed ye! Did they find a place to run away from death or hide from it? Could they deceive it by hiding under a veil or inside a fort? Listen: ***‘Do you sense anyone among them, or hear their beseeching?’<sup>2</sup>***

Glory be to Him who is alone and unquestioned in power and exaltedness; and He Alone shall be forever. He has humbled the creation by compelling them to be annihilated. And He made death a deliverer for the Godwary; and an appointment for them to meet their Beloved. He made the grave a prison for the criminals; and a constricted dungeon for them until the Day of Judgment.

For, on that day shall be the bestowing of gifts and enriching presents; and that day shall

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<sup>1</sup> *Iḥyā ‘Ulūm al-Dīn, Preface of the Chapter on Death*

<sup>2</sup> Qur’ān 19:98

be of reckoning, of retribution and the Wrath of the Almighty. We thank Him in the heavens and the earth and Praise be unto Him, from the first to the last.

Salutations on our Master Muḥammad ﷺ, the personage of manifest miracles; and compelling signs; and on his progeny and his companions. Many, many more salutations be on them.

