



THE IBN SINA-GHAZALI DEBATE: A REASSESSMENT



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There are already a number of studies or evaluations as parts of certain works on al-Ghazali's critique of the philosophers. Our study shall take this critique as an intellectual battle between mainly al-Ghazali and Ibn Sina and thus name it "Ibn Sina-Ghazali Debate". Our aim is not to examine the arguments given in support of their theories by both Ghazali and Ibn Sina supporters. We shall rather try to evaluate the nature of this debate and endeavor to pinpoint what may be called "the aftermath" in order to see its impact upon the subsequent Islamic thought. In this connection we shall comment upon "the aftermath", by which we mean the overall affects of al-Ghazali's critique of the philosophers. Concerning this issue, we do find such claims as, for example, "Ghazali annihilated philosophy in the East!", namely in the Eastern part of the Muslim world. This claim is to be rejected in this study and we shall try to support our position with our fresh findings in the history of Islamic philosophy. However, the rejection of this view does not mean that the Ghazalian position did not have any other consequences on the subsequent development of this philosophical tradition. Our paper is an attempt in this regard to provide fresh views concerning the aftermath.