

## Talking about a Taboo in the Philosophy of Islam: Sexual Education in Ghazali and İbrahim Hakkı

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### Summary

#### INTRODUCTION

Ghazali, is a great Islamic scientist and Sufi who lived between the years 1058 -1111. İbrahim Hakkı was born in the town of Hasankale (Pasinler), the city of Erzurum on 18 May 1703 and passed away on 22 June 1780. Both of the thinkers declared their ideas over basic Islamic issues and wrote many works in order to enlighten people. One of the issues thought within the context of teaching religion is *marriage*. Examining this issue in detail, Ghazali and İbrahim Hakkı were in an effort to explain the sub-issues emerging with regard to this issue.

One of the sub-issues of marriage is sexual life. Even though they lived in different centuries and in different communities, both of the thinkers explained how sexual life should be designed between the couples in detail. The manner of these two thinkers talking over this issue that is hard to talk in cultural context and regarded as a taboo in many other societies certainly needs to be praised.

#### PURPOSE and METHOD

In the current study, it was aimed to introduce Ghazali and Erzurumlu İbrahim Hakkı, two significant thinkers of Islamic philosophy, and their views over sexual life between couples within the context of education.

In this sense, the views and basic works of the two thinkers were investigated with regard to sexual life. Whether these views are compatible with the basic reference sources of Islamic thought, Qur'an and Sunna, were evaluated.

In the current study, which is a theoretical research, the techniques of data collection and content analysis methods were used. During the discussions of the content and findings, critical point of view was adopted as a common type of approach.

#### RESULTS and DISCUSSION

The basic source of the information upon which Ghazali and İbrahim Hakkı having a desire to educate people, based their education over the good manners of sexual relation, its taboos and how it should be applied is the words of the Prophet of Islam. Therefore, the perspective of sexual educational program of the two thinkers is religious. They regarded this issue as an Islamic issue and placed their way of talking on the teaching of a religious issue.

According to both of the thinkers, the basic purpose of sexual relation is reproduction and preventing the man from sins. In this sense, the starting point of the issue is men. Even though they both make an emphasis on the fact that women have rights in this issue and it is necessary to be respectful for these rights in terms of sexual relation, they put the man in the center of the interest from historical and social perspectives.

Some parts of the information with regard to sexual intercourse are away from scientific facts or from justification. Even so, the fact that they mention about sexuality and

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sexual intercourse of the couples which are hard topics to talk should be regard as the significance of the two thinkers and as a sign given to the importance of science. The metaphysical expressions and approaches they state concerning the issue are a style of approach that was gained from Sufism which they adopted as a way and a method. This style would reduce the value of what thinkers say.