

(a) Two contributions to Islam have been made by a philosopher, historian, scholar and theologian. Al-Ghazali and Al-Ghazali greatly contributed to the systematic development of Sufism (in which he strongly believed that in a state of ecstasy/bliss one becomes closer to Allah) and its integration into mainstream Islam. His ~~also~~ <sup>greatly</sup> writings also greatly contributed to Islamic thought, challenging many philosophers at the time including Aristotle and Plato. He argued for the idea of predestination - that Allah has determined the fate of his people, his teachings have greatly influenced upon adherents till this day.

(b) The writings and teachings of Islamic philosopher, scholar and respected theologian Al-Ghazali have dramatically influenced ~~Islam~~ Islam and the lives of its adherents. Al-Ghazali's work on the religious sect of Sufism has seen its integration into mainstream Islamic tradition. Al-Ghazali taught that spiritual fulfillment could not be attained by reason and intellect alone. The integration of Sufism into Islam greatly impacted ~~Islam~~ upon Islamic Tradition as adherents were guided to another medium in which they could achieve spiritual and personal achievement through Sufi-mystical experiences. His work on the notion of predestination, that Allah is omnipotent has also had large effects upon Islam. Argued by other Islamic scholars and philosophers at the time, Al-Ghazali's notions of predestination instead of free-will in human behaviour have <sup>also</sup> ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> used by some to defend Islamic fundamentalism.

(c) The practice of the Hajj greatly expresses and conveys the beliefs of Islam. The first belief, is that of placing others before oneself, is evident when a Hajji is to ~~arrange~~ make arrangements to make sure that their families are ~~re~~ taken care of both emotionally and financially before they are to embark on the Hajj pilgrimage. When arriving at Mecca, where the ~~three month~~ <sup>three month</sup> journey is to take place, pilgrims wear a white clothed robe, known as ~~thorn~~ Ihram, which is symbolic of equality. (another belief) amongst its adherents when the journey takes place. At Mecca pilgrims are required to circle the Kaaba stone seven times, they are then led on a reenactment of the journey of ~~the~~ the prophet Muhammad's wife, Hagar, in her desperate search for water for her son. Pilgrims further express their beliefs as they arrive at Arafat, where upon the ~~claim~~ <sup>collectively</sup> of mercy, pilgrims pray ~~in~~ till sunset, this expresses their belief of prayer and reverence to our Almighty Allah. Adherents continue the journey with the throwing of the stones at the pillars of Mina, this represents Abraham's rejection of the devil, throwing stones to ward him away and resisting temptation. This act in the pilgrimage of the Hajj is further symbolic of Islamic beliefs.