CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Deliverance from Error (The Confessions of al-Ghazali)

Abu Hamid al-Ghazali · *c. 1100* · *Claud Field*

Glory be to God, Whose praise should precede every writing and every speech. You have asked me, O brother in the faith, to expound the mysteries of religious sciences, and my experiences while disentangling truth. Claud Field's English (John Murray, Wisdom of the East, 1909), titled The Confessions of Al Ghazzali; the work is Deliverance from Error. Project Gutenberg #58977. For grades 11–12. Quote Ghazali, not only Field's preface. A short book, complete as hosted.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this short book as what it is—Claud Field's 1909 English of Ghazali's Deliverance from Error, also printed as The Confessions of Al Ghazzali—a life of seeking, told to a brother in the faith?

"You have asked me, O brother in the faith, to expound the aim and the mysteries of religious sciences, the boundaries and depths of theological doctrines. You"

Opening of the address

Field's 1909 Wisdom of the East volume is titled The Confessions of Al Ghazzali; it is the work known as Deliverance from Error (al-Munqidh min al-Dalāl). Keep Field's spelling where you quote him. After a brief praise of God, Ghazali answers a brother in the faith who has asked him to expound the aim and mysteries of religious sciences, and to tell his experiences while disentangling truth lost among inherited beliefs. Teach that address, for grades 11–12, with respect, as the hosted work. It is a short book, complete as hosted. Quote Ghazali, not only Field's preface. Do not recast an Islamic theologian's confession as a later Western slogan.

KEY CHARACTERS

Abu Hamid al-Ghazali
Who answers a brother in the faith, and tells how he sought to be delivered from error

The brother in the faith
Who has asked for the aim of the religious sciences, and for Ghazali's own experiences

Claud Field
The translator of this 1909 English; not the author

HOW TO BEGIN THIS CONFESSION

> *"Glory be to God, Whose praise should precede every writing and every speech! May"*
>
> Opening

> *"You have asked me, O brother in the faith, to expound the aim and the mysteries of religious sciences, the boundaries and depths of theological doctrines. You"*
>
> Opening of the address

Grades 11–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Praise Should Precede Every Writing

OPENING

Glory be to God, Whose praise should precede every writing and every speech. The confession begins with praise, not with a résumé.

- Keep Field's English exact.
- 11–12.
- Quote Ghazali, not only the preface.
- A short book; this is the first sentence of his address after the heading.

> *"Glory be to God, Whose praise should precede every writing and every speech! May"*
>
> Opening

02

By Whose Guidance Error Is Escaped

OPENING

May the blessings of God rest on Muhammed His Prophet and His Apostle, on his family and companions, by whose guidance error is escaped. The title's "error" is already in this blessing.

- Keep Field's wording and spelling.
- Teach the work as his, with respect.
- 11–12.
- Deliverance from error is the aim named in the blessing.

> *"May the blessings of God rest on Muhammed His Prophet and His Apostle, on his family and companions, by whose guidance error is escaped! You"*
>
> Opening

03

O Brother in the Faith

OPENING OF THE ADDRESS

You have asked me, O brother in the faith, to expound the aim and the mysteries of religious sciences, the boundaries and depths of theological doctrines. The book is an answer to a request.

- Keep "brother in the faith" and "religious sciences."
- 11–12.
- A personal address, not a later textbook only.
- Field, 1909.

> *"You have asked me, O brother in the faith, to expound the aim and the mysteries of religious sciences, the boundaries and depths of theological doctrines. You"*
>
> Opening of the address

04

Experiences While Disentangling Truth

OPENING OF THE ADDRESS

You wish to know my experiences while disentangling truth lost in the motley of inherited beliefs. The confession will be a path through error, told as experience.

- Keep "disentangling truth" if the next words hold; do not invent them.
- The later sections follow that path; one map cannot teach them all.
- 11–12.
- Quote this English.

> *"You wish to know my experiences while disentangling truth lost in the"*
>
> Opening of the address

05

Field, 1909: Confessions, and Deliverance

THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #58977 is Claud Field's The Confessions of Al Ghazzali (John Murray, Wisdom of the East, 1909). The work is Deliverance from Error. Name both titles, and Field. It is short, complete as hosted. For grades 11–12. Quote Ghazali, not only the preface. Teach with respect; do not recast it as a later slogan.

- Keep Field's "Ghazzali" in the 1909 title.
- A spiritual autobiography of an Islamic theologian.
- Do not invent another translator.
- Short, as hosted.

> *"You have asked me, O brother in the faith, to expound the aim and the mysteries of religious sciences, the boundaries and depths of theological doctrines. You"*
>
> Opening of the address

Praise before speech · Deliverance from error · A brother in the faith · Experience as a path · A short, complete book

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 11–12

1. Field's 1909 volume is titled The Confessions of Al Ghazzali; the work is Deliverance from Error. Name both.
2. He writes to a brother in the faith, to expound the religious sciences and to tell his experiences while disentangling truth.
3. A short book, complete as hosted. Quote Ghazali, not only Field's preface.
4. For grades 11–12. Teach with respect; do not recast it as a later Western slogan.

Quotations are verbatim from the Claud Field, Project Gutenberg #58977 (The Confessions of Al Ghazzali, trans. Claud Field, London: John Murray, Wisdom of the East, 1909), the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/ghazali-deliverance-from-error/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.