

The Concept of *Sama* ' from the Perspectives of Imam Muhammad al-Ghazali and Rumi (Mawlawi)

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to analyze and compare the perspectives of al-Ghazali and Rumi regarding *Sama* ' (audition/listening). *Sama* ', literally meaning voice and song, is technically defined by Sufis as the state of spiritual ecstasy, joy, vigorous movement, and hand-clapping accompanied by specific rituals and formalities. From al-Ghazali's perspective, *Sama* ' acts as a mirror reflecting the content of the heart, serving as a factor that awakens and strengthens the hidden spiritual force within a person's heart. Therefore, *Sama* ' can be a fatal poison for diseased hearts but a healing agent for healthy ones. He neither strictly forbids *Sama* ' like the rigid jurists nor grants it absolute permission like the extremists Sufis. Similarly, Rumi views *Sama* ' not merely as a dance or external movement, but as the manifestation of divine love's fervor and the expression of the soul's mystical state. In his view, *Sama* ' is meaningful only when stemming from genuine love and spiritual ecstasy, not from imitation or mere entertainment. Furthermore, Rumi considers *Sama* ' the nourishment for the soul of lovers, a generator of vitality and enthusiasm, and a path toward liberation from the body and union with the Spirit.

Keywords: Mysticism, Sufism, *Sama* ', Al-Ghazali, Rumi.