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# Reading Questions: Medieval Philosophy, Al-Ghazali, *Rescuer from Error* and Ibn Tufayl, *Hayy ibn Yaqzan*

1. Why does Hayy cut open the doe that raised him? What process of reasoning lead him to do it?

2. Regardless of the substance of his conclusions, what method of inquiry does Hayy use? What do you think of this method?

3. How does Hayy come to think of the animal kingdom as one being? How does he apply this reasoning to the entire world? What is the relationship between plurality and unity here?

4. What is the Necessarily Existent Being? What is it like to imitate it?

5. Absal and Salaman choose different paths, drawing on wisdom from their religion. What are the different paths?

6. How do Salaman and the other wise men react to Hayy's teachings? What does Hayy do as a result? What do you think about this choice and the reasons Hayy has for making it?

7. How certain does al-Ghazali set out to be?

8. What four approaches to finding truth (or schools of thought) does al-Ghazali try? What does he find wrong with them, if anything?

9. Why must the multitude be kept from learning certain kinds of philosophical doctrine according to al-Ghazali?

10. What approach finding truth does he think to be the best? How certain is he of this approach? What are the requirements of this approach? What are its costs?

11. What is the mystical state like? Is it open to anyone? Does al-Ghazali's pursuit of it sound like any character in *Hayy ibn Yaqzan?*

12. What is the "eye" that lies "beyond the intellect" according to al-Ghazali? What is this faculty and what can it tell us about? What metaphors does he use to explain it?