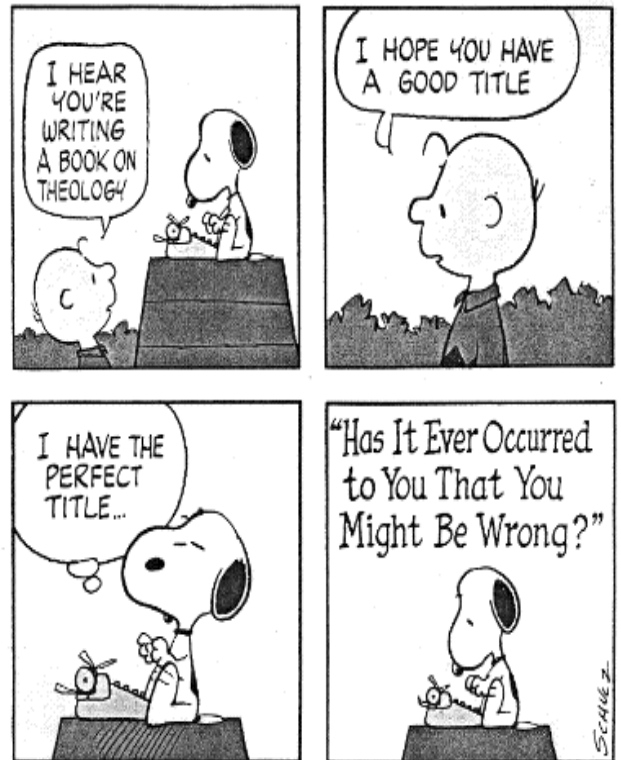


## CIVILIZATION SEQUENCE 205

### *Introduction/Al-Ghazālī (d. 1111)*

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### **2. What is a PARADIGM? And a PARADIGM SHIFT?**

- A Paradigm is "an entire constellation of beliefs, values, techniques and so on shared by the members of a given community." It refers to the conceptual frameworks and/or worldviews of a certain culture at a certain time of history; a cultural paradigm might overreach many cultures; and especially in the case of scientific paradigms it can even involve the conceptual frameworks of various scientific communities in different societies and cultures.
- A Paradigm Shift is "the replacement of a paradigm previously held to be valid to a new one." Paradigm shifts do not normally take place suddenly. A macro-paradigm needs a long time to mature before it establishes itself historically. For Kuhn, scientific revolutions occur during those periods where at least two paradigms co-exist, one traditional and at least one new. (Hans Küng, *Christianity: essence, history and future*, citing Thomas S. Kuhn).