



HOLDINGS OF QURAN AND SUNNAH TOWARDS EXCELLENCE OF MALAYS

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ABSTRACT

The light of truth reflected from the content of al-Quran contains the noble foundations of developing civilization as a guidelines to be followed by all mankind. The Quran calls upon all people to return to rational and realistic thinking and leave the belief and thinking of animisme, paganisme and "syncretism". As a most perfect book created by God therefore Quran is a truth light brightening the path of hardship that all men have to gone through. Same goes to Sunnah delivered by Prophet Muhammad S.A.W through the revelation of God and become guidelines for human to manage their system of life. History proved to us all the contents in Quran and Sunnah have given positive impacts to malay culture. Teachings of islam have stimulated in Malay culture and created a great wave that initiated the revolution process of human systems views of life that turned human beliefs from a fantasy mythical realm to the development of knowledge and character that require orders and manners. Islam has changed malay culture to rationalization belief and logical knowledge. The manisfestation were shown through the system of human based on independence, justice and noble personality. Therefore, a critical and scientific study on the impact of Quran and Sunnah to empower malays civilization should be done. This research used qualitative approach by conducting research to islamic history in order to get clearer picture about the aspects of cultural, thought and reality of Malays in this day. As a result, Quran and Sunnah had coloured the beliefs system, philosophy, language, historical dan arts in Malay citizens. The excellence of Malay civilization cannot be separated from islamic teachings. Most importantly, Malay's will continues competent and glory as long as they hold to Quran and Sunnah.

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Contribution/ Originality

The paper's primary contribution is finding that clearer picture about the aspects of cultural, thought and reality of Malays in this day and how Quran and Sunnah could give impact to color the beliefs system, philosophy, language, historical and arts in Malay citizens. Through this study, Malay's would see the important to hold on Quran and Sunnah to stay competent and glory.

1. INTRODUCTION

Quran is word of almighty god, ALLAH revealed to Prophet Muhammad S.A.W through angel Gabriel. It was a great miracle given by God to Prophet Muhammad S.A.W with a role to convey the words to people. The Quran contains 114 chapters, known as *sura* covering 6,616 of verses which known as *ayat* and contains 323,671 of letters. The verses of Quran is classified based on where it has been revealed whether in makkah, known as *ayat makkiyah* or in madinah, known as *ayat madaniyyah*. The Quran not only explain about religion principles but also contains various of guidance and resources of knowledge as a guideline for people to build human civilization. Interestingly, Quran tells the stories of things that will happen in future and supernatural knowledge (*sam`iyyat*) which beyond the ability of human prediction and imagination. Quran is the unchanging word of God as it is comes from ALLAH, thus the contains is purified from any error and distortion unlike the nature of human and nature.

The light of truth reflected from the content of Quran contains the noble foundations of developing civilization as a guidelines to be followed by all mankind. The Quran calls upon all people to return to rational and realistic thinking and leave the belief and thinking of animisme, paganisme and "syncretism". As a most perfect book created by God therefore Quran is a truth light brightening the path of hardship that all men have to gone through. As ALLAH S.W.T says:

"And We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], the Book in truth, confirming that which preceded it of the Scripture and as a criterion over it. So judge between them by what Allah has revealed and do not follow their inclinations away from what has come to you of the truth. To each of you We prescribed a law and a method. Had Allah willed, He would have made you one nation [united in religion], but [He intended] to test you in what He has given you; so race to [all that is] good. To Allah is your return all together, and He will [then] inform you concerning that over which you used to differ."

2. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN QURAN AND DEVELOPMENTAL OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION

Muslim citizen has successful developed an excellence human civilization which incoprate in every field of human life through the power of religion and based on framework of *tauhid*. In fact, Quran is the basic instrument to design islamic civilization. Although Quran is a book which explained the basic framework of Islam, but it also contains explanation or description things related to logical problem. The contents of al-Quran are also touch on aspects of civilization development and the first thing count to concern is the man himself. As a human beings created by ALLAH to inhabit the earth, human are bound by the laws and regulations that were created by ALLAH as stated in Al-Quran and Sunnah.

According to [Shu'Aibi \[1\]](#), in his paperwork with title “*civilization approaches in Quran, sunnah and heritage of Muslim intellectual*”, He explained that ALLAH had put civilization principles in Quran. HE has stated that HE will not change the fate of a group of men from weak to strong, from colonialism to independence, from backwardness to advancement until after they have initiatives on it. This fact is based on what ALLAH says:

“*Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.*”

(Chapter:ar-Ra`d, Verses:11)

Civilization in islamic perspective needs to be anchored to the pure monotheistic faith and ultimately will produce kindness, progress and high in cultural. Islam as a holistic religion encouraged its followers to create a culture and civilization in order to build a generation of *Rabbani*. Like what has been described by [Said Hawwa \[2\]](#) in her writings, “*al-islam*”. He explained, civilization generally are divided into two, first is Islamic civilization and second is *Jahiliyyah* civilization. Generally, Islamic civilization defined as all aspect of development are stand on Islamic cultural and the outcome is relevance with it. While *Jahiliyyah* civilization is development happen will reflected in the form of material without considering morale and spiritual aspects. Islamic civilization is unique as it governed by the Islamic law, Quran and Sunnah. Thus, if contradictions happen with the assigned Islamic values then it is not recognized as Islamic culture. Holding to those principles, Prophet Muhammad S.A.W had transformed the paradigm of ignorance Arab citizens become a citizens who hold noble culture with a genuine belief to Allah, *akidah*.

[Syamsuddin \[3\]](#) in his paperwork “*Membumikan al-Quran dan Sunnah untuk Pembangunan Negara Islam Moden*” asserts that as a religion anchored to *tauhid*, Islam emphasized on unity among all the dimension of human life with the creation of knowledge and civilization. In other words, ALLAH as The Creator, created all creatures including human beings with theistic dogma, presence of soul relationship (nature and human are derived from a single soul, *nafs wahidah*). Therefore, the combination of knowledge that exist between paradigm of faith (*tauhid*) does not distinguish between religion and world logic knowledge. Human civilization is a manifestation from the principle of unity creation and knowledge blended with values of humanity and divinity. Separation of these values will give negative impact and eventually could collapse the development of civilization.

The values contain in Islam are universal, it does not influenced by the the elements of boundaries, geography and cultural. Islam is synonym with modernization through the vision and mision that brings blessings, benefit and harmony to the universe (*rahmat li-alamin*). Flexibility that available in the principles of syari'a (*syariat*) could fulfill current needs and realities of people. Continuity and change showed by Islam prove syari'a is dynamic and support the civilization that always moving parallel with human development and modernization.

3. QURAN IS THE CATALYST OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

When Islam existed in this world, Arabs already had their own civilization. Even though people at that time are known as ignorant Arab citizens, it does not indicate they are ignorant in all aspects of life. They already had their own glorious civilization history like Saba' and Himyar communities. Ignorance (*Jahiliyah*) here is defined as ignorant of religion and belief. History has stated that their ancestors inherited a religion called *Wathani* or worship to the idol, thus those beliefs were planted in their souls and bodies. Therefore, it was hard for a different religion to take over the place as well as to influence the religion and belief system they held over the ages.

When the Quran was revealed to the Arabs, there was a strong opposition to it at the beginning stages of revelation. However, after they understood and believed its content, the light of truth from the Quran made their hard souls become soft with the guidance from God, *illahi*. The spiritual success of the Quran turned the ignorant thoughts of the Arabs, who were formerly known as barbarians, into love of war, illiteracy, and being recognized as people with civilization and becoming an example to other civilizations.

ALLAH has also asked Muslim people to think in a more globally context. Adhering to the 'Iqra' spirits, Muslims have succeeded in becoming a more dynamic person and producing scholars who excel in various fields of knowledge. The Quran, the word of God, has given many contributions to the development of the phenomena of civilization. The way it was delivered is also using good words, "al-kalimah at tayyibah" ..

The Quran has succeeded in changing the thought and attitude of the Arabs to more positive and dynamic. This Quranic wave has brought a big transformation to Arab citizens and it required them to be people who are knowledgeable and highly civilized. Through the first revelation from ALLAH, He has given the guidance and direction to humans about the importance and dignity of knowledge. By mastering the knowledge, men will know their Creator, the universe, and themselves, then being creative to create something beneficial to humans and nature. The power of the Quran is such that there is no contradiction between human scientific research and its contents.

According to the study conducted by scholars, they stated that the sun contains elements including gases like hydrogen, helium, carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, metal, and so on, which have already been mentioned in the Quran. There are many verses in the Quran that explain the secrets of the universe's phenomena that require detailed study and research for the good of mankind. According to Z.R. El-El-Naggar [4] in his writings, "*Sources of Scientific Knowledge: The Geological Concept of Mountains in the al-Quran*", with a detailed research, the Quran is the source to explain scientific research and indirectly all the phenomena says by ALLAH in the Quran show His greatness and wisdom. El-Naggar [4] in his writings said;

"The focus of the Quran is on explaining to mankind the detail of what constitutes al-Sirat al-Mustaqim. In the process, the Quran asks mankind to look around and consider the complexity, the majesty, and the wonders of creation. The idea behind is that those who consider the universe carefully will perceive within in the signs of Allah's greatness, mercy and power."

As a proof, Allah SWT says in the Quran:

“Do you not see that Allah sends down rain from the sky, and We produce thereby fruits of varying colors? And in the mountains are tracts, white and red of varying shades and [some] extremely black. And among people and moving creatures and grazing livestock are various colors similarly. Only those fear Allah, from among His servants, who have knowledge. Indeed, Allah is Exalted in Might and Forgiving.

(Chapter: Fathir, Verses: 27-28)

Thus, the responsibility to study about it is not only to those who are coming from the discipline of religious but is responsibility to all mankind among all discipline. Study about the phenomena of nature is to make an individual know his Creator and indirectly the individual will feel the greatness and truth contained in great revelation of ALLAH. Truth that showed in Quran will improve people belief.

Quran tells Muslims to think rationally and dynamic. Thought and behaviour that oppose rational mind certainly will make contradiction with sharia. As an example, belief and thought of animism or syncretism oppose the basic principles of Islam. Quran does not give a detailed answers and solutions to all human related problems and needs. Verses in Quran explain general principles of human civilization including various discipline of knowledge as a guideline to be followed. The aim of Quran is to tell people to uphold the message of *Tauhid* to the universe as well as to let people to think critically and rationally about development for the sake of mankind. Muslim nowadays need to accept the challenges as demanded by the Quran. The reform movement to put an awareness to Muslim about moral bankruptcy and fall of Muslim need to done as an effort to strengthen islamic civilization on earth. However, a consistent and wisdom efforts need to be implemented as a best approach in making islamic civilization as a great civilization.

4. ISLAM IS THE CATALYST OF MALAY CIVILIZATION

If histories had been checked back, Islam arrived at Malay with a friendly attribute with a local citizen and their cultural has managed to influence nobility and ordinary people to accept Islamic teachings. The acceptance of Islamic teachings has greatly changed the cosmological thinking of Malay people to release them from a belief of animism, hinduism and budhanism. Eventhough at the initial stage, assimilation occurred between inheritance traditional beliefs but eventually believing to Tauhid brought by Islamic teaching planted strongly and acceptable by Malay community.

Dynamism brought by Islam through the guidance of Quran concedes the validity of a culture and celebrate it as long as it is not contrary to the principles of Islam given a deep impact to Malay community.

The uniqueness of Islam had initiated a phenomenon where people who accept Islam have been recognized as people with high civilization and knowledge. This great achievement are also recognized among Malay people like what has stated by [Mona and Abul Fadl \[5\]](#).

“within the space of decades, the Arabs had outgrown the phase of tribal parochialism to become the uncontested masters of an empire and the heralds of an open and expanding world community. This examples was not confined only to the history of the

Arabs, for it was repeated in the case of Berbers, Turks, Mongols, Persian, Indian, Malays and the kingdom in West and East Africa."

In essence, the guidelines brought by the Quran indirectly cure the soul and physical of Malay community into a strong community and finally founded a civilization well known in the West and the East Samri [6]. The acceptance of Islam that used Quran and Sunnah have give an impact to various aspect of Malay's life such as language, literature, intellectual, administrative law, belief systems, politics, customs, trade and social development.

An outstanding civilization is a dream among any nations in the world. However, what to put to achieve the excellence is important to determine the sustainability and survivality of a nation. The ignorance and negligence of people to fulfill the needs of the civilization developmental could risked the potential of the civilization to remain longer.

Therefore, history proved the glorious of the golden age of Islamic empire dominating the East and West is caused by the ability of Muslim during that time to fill the civilization they had created with elements of faith (*Tauhid*), knowledge and noble attitude. Strengths that energized Muslim to unite in defending faith (*akidah*), culturalised knowledge in life and not influenced by individualistic culture (*Taqlid*) and personal glory as purpose of life. All of this basis are the powerful assets of Muslim to confront with internal and external enemy of Islam.

Same goes to malay civilization, the developments also needs a balance process between physical and spiritual element. The unity of both elements will be a powerful defends system to Malay people to face various challenges locally and globally. History has showed to us a beneficial guidance by looking at the cycle of civilization process since age of Srivijaya's government until Malacca Malay Government. Civilization of Malay start to experience dark age and a long declination before been colonized. The fundamentals that influenced the excellence of ancient civilization especially in the age of Malacca Malay Government clearly influenced by high appreciation to Islamic teachings. Therefore, malay community today need to understand islamic teachings which come from the content of Quran and sunnah which can develop and protect people not only in this world but across the another dimensions of world, hereafter. Take for granted to the Quran and sunnah claims will open the door of destruction and for a long term period will destroy human potential to develop a great civilization and become an example to others like Islamic Civilization during the golden age.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Quran provided to human with a valuable instructions and guidances for human to develop intrinsic human civilization with the consideration of material and spiritual development. Quran as pure words ask people to develop which bring advantages to human and universe based on shari'a. Human civilization will not reach the peak unless with outstanding knowledge and mind, noble manners and strong faith. Weakness, backwardness and inability of human civilization is caused by stupidity and ignorance in generating creative and inovative ideas which eventually will contribute to the collapse of civilization developments. Therefore, failure of Malay Muslim today to accept

challenges from Quran will give negative impact to face various challenge and attacks from inside or outside.

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