



## **Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar Home of the World Qur'an Learning Center; Palembang, a Religious City, Builds Religious Moderation People**

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### **Abstract**

Palembang City is one of the big cities in Sumatra, there are also Medan City, Banda Aceh City and Lampung City which are growing rapidly in terms of education, social economy and culture. In this paper, the author wants to convey to readers that in the area of Sumatra Island, there is one area that is the center of learning the Qur'an, namely the city of Palembang. Palembang City is not only famous as a City of History where at that time there was a war with Dutch Colonialism, the AMPERA event or the Mandate for the Suffering of the People and other historical events. The author wants to look at the aspects of learning the Qur'an in Palembang City, one of which is the center of learning is Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar which is located in the Musi II Gandus area of Palembang City.

### **Preliminary**

Palembang is a religious city, the beauty of the Qur'an can be seen and seen from the long-established Islamic boarding schools and madrassas that have contributed a lot. Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar is a clear proof of how the people of Palembang have made the Qur'an a learning life and center for the art of calligraphy which is very beautiful, has high aesthetic value. One of them is a verse about the change of day and night, becomes the wisdom of life for humans, is made into calligraphy art and there are still many meanings of the verses of the Qur'an for lessons for us.

Allah created day and night not by accident. All the rules in nature have a tremendous purpose and wisdom. Day is the time from sunrise to sunset. Meanwhile, night is the time after sunset to sunrise. From several cases in the mass media, it shows that there are still many people who do not realize that Allah SWT has set the night to rest and day to do activities. There are still many people who forget about this, so they only think about work from morning to morning without any rest. (LIDYA, 2019)

Understanding of religious values, about the wisdom of changing day and night can be given to the community through da'wah. Either in the form of da'wah such as lectures or preaching which is conveyed through visual art works. Many verses of the Koran explain hikma day and night. By understanding these verses, we will know the greatness and power of Allah through the alternation of day and night.



Da'wah with fine art media in the form of Arabic calligraphy can give an aesthetic touch by displaying the verses of the Al-Quran and the form of calligraphy and background that convey messages from the verses of the Koran about the change of day and night. Calligraphy means cleverness in beautiful writing, or beautiful writing. Arabic itself calls it khat, which means beautiful lines or writing of Da'wah through calligraphy and in the art field it can be made into several works, one of which is batik. Arabic calligraphy is an inspiration in the making of the final work, besides being a beautiful art, this work is also a medium for da'wah. Of course, the existence of the Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar is not only a place for us to take pictures or a center for arts and culture but more importantly a center for learning and memorizing the Qur'an.

## Theory

Al-Qur'an according to language is the masdar form of qoro'a which means reading, talking about what is written and on it looking and analyzing. According to the term, Al-Qur'an is the word of Allah which was revealed to the prophet Muhammad SAW as a miracle in every letter and read it worship. Allah says in the Koran Surah al-Hijr verse 9 which reads: It means: "Indeed, We are the ones who sent down the Al-Quran, and indeed We really take care of it" (Ministry of Religion, 2015)

Al-Qur'an is the only holy book on earth that is preserved, both in terms of lafadz and its content. As the verse above, this is a promise of Allah SWT who will always keep it until the Day of Judgment. One of safeguards Allah's against the Koran is to honor its memorizers. Children are a mandate (entrusted) from Allah SWT which is given to whomever He wants. Whenever and wherever, also according to His wishes. Likewise, Allah SWT has the power not to give children to whomever He wants, according to fate and the wisdom behind it. That mandate must of course be maintained and maintained on an ongoing basis, in the form of proper education and teaching, especially in teaching the Koran to children. (Marlina, 2018)

Teaching the Koran to children as early as possible is the main foundation for producing Muslim children who are firmly adhering to the holy book, growing up according to their nature. So that bright lights will emit in their hearts, before lust overcomes and pollutes their hearts. The companions of Rasulullah SAW understand well the important role of memorizing Al-Quran and its effect on the child's soul. Therefore, they are very diligent in teaching the Koran to their children, as a form of practicing the instructions given by the Prophet. Narrated from Mush'ab bin Sa'd bin Abi Waqaash ra, from his father, he said that Rasulullah saw. ever said; It is best if you are people who want to learn Al-Quran and want to teach it ". (HR Ahmad)

Studying the Koran is meaningful as an individual's internal effort to make personal improvements. Meanwhile, teaching the Koran is meaningful as an external improvement effort and has a da'wah value that must be done to fellow Muslims. Thus individuals who study the Koran are given many privileges as well as the responsibility to spread what they learn to others through the way of da'wah. (Marlina, 2018)



As for the virtue of reading and memorizing the Al-Qur'an is that individuals who practice it will be the best of humans, be elevated by Allah, the Qur'an will give syafa'at to those who read it, Allah promises to give parents whose children memorize alqur'an a shining crown (extraordinary reward), the hearts of those who read the Qur'an will always be fortified from torment, their hearts will be at ease and calm, and kept away from the disease of senility. Memorizing the Al-Qur'an is not an easy job, but it is also not an impossible thing, even though there are many people who have memorized the Al-Qur'an but many do not memorize the Qur'an. Memorizing Al-Quran is an activity that includes memory activities in it. Therefore, it is very necessary to instill and foster children's love for the Koran from an early age, because according to psychology experts, childhood memory is very strong.

Meanwhile, the understanding of the concept of moderation which becomes our reference is the book published by the Indonesian Ministry of Religion, and the Decree of the Director General No. 7272 of 2019; The Pocket Book of Questions and Answers on Religious Moderation, Books on Religious Moderation and the Implementation of Religious Moderation in Islamic Education, in this section to explain the concept of Moderate Person, we mainly quote from the Book of Implementation of Religious Moderation which mostly comes from the study of the Qur'an, Hadith and the views of scholars. regarding the concept of moderation, then it has been made in the policy of the Director General's Decree. (RI, 2020)

The concept of moderate Islam and tolerant Islam is a concept of one unit that is the same and in line, namely the Islamic religious model that tends towards the middle way and peace as the universal message of Islam as a religion that is rahmatan lil alamin, a religious person that can respect different opinions, and rejects. extreme and radical religious models. (Sumarto, 2020) Academic Islamic studies, Islam wasathiyyah is also called justly-balanced Islam, the middle path or the middle way Islam, and Islam as a mediating and balancing power to play a mediating and counterbalancing role. This interpretation shows that Islam wasathiyah emphasizes the importance of justice and balance and a middle way so as not to get trapped in extreme religious attitudes. So far, the Islamic concept of wasathiyyah has been understood to reflect the principles of tawassuth (middle), tasāmuh (tolerant), tawāzun (balanced), i'tidāl (fair), and iqtishād (simple).

## **The Research**

Methodologymethodology used by the author is descriptive qualitative, that is, conveying the research results in the form of a narrative which comes from the results of data collection using interviews, observation and documentation. Qualitative research emphasizes the deductive and inductive analysis of thought processes related to the dynamics of the relationship between observed phenomena, and using scientific logic. emphasized on the depth of formal thinking in answering problems. aims to develop the concept of sensitivity to problems, explain reality related to *grounded theory*, and develop an understanding of one or more of the phenomena at hand. Descriptive qualitative research is also one of the appropriate research methodologies in describing an object under study of course by using data analysis techniques starting from the data search stage, data verification to the data presentation stage. For the validity of the data presented, the author uses data validity techniques, namely triangulation of data starting from



the validity of the source of the informant, the strength of the theory to the results and analysis of the findings. (Hardani, 2020)

## Results and Discussion

Palembang City has a lot of history, lots of inspiration and learning motivation for all of us. Palembang City is not only beautiful in nature, beautiful infrastructure, but beautiful religious culture. We can see and learn this in Palembang City, one of which is Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar, the Biggest House of Al Qur'an, according to the information we received from one of them. One Ustadz at Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar when explaining the historical Making of the Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar.



Figure 1: The front gate of the entrance to Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar, Musi II, Gandus City of Palembang, if we pay attention it is clear that there is such a monument where the globe above is the Qur'an, this has philosophical values, where peace, a prosperous life in the world can be achieved with the existence of the Qur'an, of course we must be diligent in reading the Qur'an and practicing it. (Author, 2021)

Together with friends of the BDK Palembang BDK Training of Religious Moderation and Religious Harmony, before seeing and learning further about Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar, there were several explanations from religious tour guides; Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar was founded in Palembang for the first time by Ustadz H. Syofwatillah, a native Palembang wong, who was born into a middle to lower economic family, but has an extraordinary spirit of life and a love for the Qur'an.

Ustadz H. Syofwatillah Struggling as a youth of Palembang who does not give up easily, does not give up easily and gives birth to a lot of calligraphy, one of which is at the Great Mosque of Palembang City, teaching the Koran and even to fulfill daily needs and continue education must be willing to be "kennek for public transport cars" the most important thing is halal and a high



fighting spirit for a better life and being able to achieve goals, make parents proud, proud of Palembang City and the Nation of the Nation.

Of course, the Bayt Al-Quran Al-Akbar Palembang has a long history. Oenggagas Ustadz Syofwatillah, who is also a calligraphy engraver, realized his dream of making a giant Al-Quran. The holy verses of the Koran are engraved on the sheet of Tembesu wood. The choice of this type of wood is because it is durable and anti-termite. This wood is widely available in Palembang and Jambi areas. The special carvers were imported from Java and Palembang. They also perform special prayers such as fasting before carving the holy verses of the Koran.



Figure 2: Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar, we can see the verses of the Qur'an carved on selected wood, the manufacturing process is quite long, which is up to 7 years, and this is proof that Palembang is a Religious City, Al Qur ' an is the source of life for humans (Author, 2021)

The source of funding for the making of this Giant Al-Quran comes from donations from donors. The process also took quite a long time, up to 7 years, which began in 2002 and was completed in 2009. This is due to the lag time in the process of waiting for Tembesu wood stocks and donations from donors. Bayt Al-Quran Al-Akbar was inaugurated on January 30, 2012 by the President of the Republic of Indonesia Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Bayt Al Quran Al-Akbar or which is also often called the Giant Al Quran, which is located in the city of Palembang, is located at Pondok Pesantren Al Ihsaniyah Gandus Palembang. There are 30 juz of the holy verses of the Koran that have been carved / carved in the Palembang style on wooden sheets and cost approximately 40 cubic meters of Tembesu wood at a cost of not less than IDR 2 billion, where each sheet has a page size of 177 x 140 x 2.5 centimeters and the overall thickness including the cover reaches 9 meters.



Figure 3: When visiting and studying at Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar, we will get an explanation from an ustadz about the history of the establishment of Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar by a young man who was born with an economic condition that is not so lucky but passionate in teaching Al Qur'an from mosque to mosque, in this picture, you can see the Surah Al-Fatihah which was the first time he made Syofwatillah Mohzaib, which was made. At Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar we are also served with comfort, the existence of economic activities to support the sustainability of the Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar and the Islamic boarding school Tahfidzul Qur'an. (Author, 2021)

What we convey above are some quotes from the Palembang information media and information from religious tour guides who are in Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar. If we look and learn more, especially in Southeast Asia, Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar is one of the most frequently visited religious tourism destinations including Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and other Islamic countries to witness the greatness and majesty of the Qur'an. , give love to learn and memorize the Qur'an.



Ustadz Syofwatillah Mohzaib is a role model full of achievements and inspirations for today's youth. In the eyes of the world, he is well known for his monumental work, the Al Qur'an Akbar Gandus, which at its inauguration on January 30, 2012 was attended directly by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Chairman of the Indonesian Parliament Marzuki Alie and all state delegates from the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Parliamentary Conference. 2012.

In Ust Ofat's statement, the history of the founding of the Akbar Qur'an was very struggling, starting from the placement at the Grand Mosque until now which has become a tourist destination for everyone. Currently, the Al Qur'an Akbar is one of the icons of Indonesian halal tourism through the 2018 Anugerah Pesona Indonesia (API) award by the Indonesian Ministry of Tourism as the Most Popular Halal Tourism Destination in Indonesia. HPP Muratara was warmly welcomed by Ust Ofat who had just become the Imam of Friday Prayers at the IGM Al Ihsaniah Islamic Boarding School Mosque, the inspirational discussion was quite long and full of strong messages.

Ustadz Syofwatillah Mohzaib conveyed that Muratara's HPP as a group of migrant youths must have a concrete contribution to the community there, for example, in the future you can build mosques, schools, bridges with fundraising or other useful concrete actions. This is not impossible, as long as you are istiqomah, Allah will make everything easy. I am also a young migrant from Banten but already living in Palembang. How do you do it, *khairunnas anfa uhum linnas*, to spread as many benefits as possible to others, through ideas, especially when you are successful later. Second, today we see a lot of social deviations, so as young people we must be the pioneers of prevention through 3 ways: heart (obey), verbal (voice) and hands (power). (Muratara, 2020)

The results of the latest data show that the religious tourism Bayt Al Quran Al Akbar Gandus Palembang is ready to perfect the mini cinema destination area for visitors. Later, local and national tourists can watch a variety of religious films and Muslim history. Actually the cinema has been around since Eid al-Fitr yesterday, but it's still perfunctory. Alhamdulillah, there is CSR assistance for sound systems and other supporting facilities that make cinemas better, conveyed by the initiator of Bayt Al Qur an Al Akbar, Ustadz Syofwatillah Mohzaib. (Palembang, 2020)

According to Ustadz Syofwatillah Mohzaib, after the mini cinema is completely built, the people who come to the largest Al-Quran calligraphy museum in the world can deepen their knowledge of Islam through broadcast Muslim stories. The films that aired are like the initial story of the construction of this religious tourism (the Great Quran) and the history of the revelation of the holy verses of the Koran and the struggles of Islamic fighters.



## Conclusion

At the location of Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar, adjacent to the Islamic boarding school which is managed by Ustadz H. Syofwatillah which is devoted to memorizing the Qur'an, Alhamdulillah many have memorized the Qur'an. The existence of the Bayt Al Qur'an Al Akbar in Palembang City has also become an icon and learning center and instills the values of religious moderation, becomes a source of learning and provides an image, education of the Qur'an in Palembang City. Where the city of Palembang is not a city that is not comfortable to visit, but the city of Palembang is a city that gives peace and comfort to every visitor who comes.

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