



The Concept of Syariat Teaching in Samawi Religion in the Books of the Story of Civilization by Will Durant

Konsep Ajaran Syariat dalam Agama Samawi Melalui Karya the Story of Civilization oleh Will Durant

Nurul Hidayah Tumadi^{1*}, Husein Ritonga¹, Hadri Hasan¹, Arwansyah Kirin²

¹Universitas Islam Negeri Sulthan Thaha Saifuddin, Jambi, INDONESIA

²Islamic Studies Department, Centre for General Studies and Co-curricular, Universiti Tun Hussein on Malaysia, Johor, MALAYSIA

*Corresponding Author

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30880/jts.2021.13.01.003>

Received 10 April 2021; Accepted 5 May 2021; Available online 20 June 2021

Abstract: Islam is major religion in the three categories of another samawi religions in the world, containing syariat teachings such as hijab (veil), polygamy, maintaining a halal and good diet, limiting mixing between men and women and so on. Various problems that arise among Muslims about the teachings of the Syariat, some are compliant with the Syariat and some are violate it to the point of cornering Islam in the eyes of other religions. While infact other samawi religions also have syariat teachings that are not much different from the Islamic teachings that we follow. Therefore, this study aims to identify the concept of samawi religious teachings according to Will Durant through his work The Story of Civilization so that the similarities and differences between the religions can be indentified. Another goal in this study is that every application of the law that concerning the application of religious law is actually not only Islam, but in reality in other samawi religions, the Shari'a has been set which is not much different. The methodology of this study is qualitative through the method of literature and content analysis design of the book The Story of Civilazation. This study found that there are similarities in the concepts of the teachings of the samawi religion (Jewish, Christian/Christian and Islamic). Although some concepts the teachings of the syariat are not explained in detail by Will Durant on some religions, as he is more focused on history, politics and the concept of faith. Another goal is that every application of the law that leads to the application of Islamic law is actually not only Islam but in essence other divine religions have also been stipulated by the Shari'a which is not much different. This research proves this. Therefore, this study can give us understanding that if the concept of sharia teachings in this heavenly religion is carried out correctly, then there will be no difference between human beings but will be a form of religious tolerance, especially to Islam.

Keywords: Syariat teachings, Samawi religion, Will Durant, the story of civilization

1. Introduction

Here Studying history in religious law is very important. This is because religion is a source of noble values of character that must be used as a guide for life in this world and the hereafter. The fact is that human beings are always side by side between one religion and another in every place and time. The samawi religion is a religion that has a

*Corresponding author: hidayahtumadi@yahoo.com

2021 UTHM Publisher. All rights reserved.

penerbit.uthm.edu.my/ojs/index.php/jts

prophetic lineage from the prophet Ibrahim Alaihi Salam to the prophet Muhammad SAW. In this category there are 3 samawi religions that have taken place since the previous prophet namely Yahudi from the descendants of prophet Ya'qub Alaihi Salam, son of prophet Ishaq and grandson of prophet Ibrahim (Muhammad Syarqawi, 2006). Nasrani religion (Christianity) is derived from the descendants of Maryam bint Imran, granddaughter of the Prophet Ya'qub Alaihi Salam while Islam is derived from the descendants of Prophet Ibrahim Alaihi Salam (Muhammad Syarqawi, 2006). Looking at the three samawi religions, they come from the same lineage and also from the same messenger (Allah), then of course they have the same concept of syariat teachings. However, in the al-Quran surah al-Maidah : 48 it is clearly stated that Allah SWT says meaning: "We have given the Syariat in the form of provisions of amaliah law and a clear path for every ummah who is worthy to follow. Had Allah willed to unite their Syariat, he would have united them (QS: Al-Maidah, 5:48). In fact, the concept of the teachings in samawi religion, there are several things such as the command of worship solat, fasting, prohibition of eating unslaughtered animals, drinking alcohol, eating usury, the command to cover the aurat (veil) for women, restrict intercourse between men and women, marry differently. religion, music and so on. If we look at the concept of syariat teachings above it turns out that these three heavenly religions have the same theory, but the practice violates the rules of the concept of the samawi religion, as stated by Will Durant in his book "The Story of Civilization". So, actually if each of these samawi religious communities applies what has been shown by their God, then we will find a harmonious life, mutual respect, mutual tolerance. But the fact is not so, more people move away from the teachings of their respective religions, than, the noise of life arises, blaming each other, cornering and even killing each other.

2. Literature Review on Author

2.1 Overview on the Author Will Durant

Will Durant was born on November 5, 1885 in North Adams, Massachusetts and died in 1981. His parents were Joseph and Marie Allors Durant and had 11 siblings, they were French-Canadian immigrants. He was called by his mother by the name of William James Durant in honor of one of Christ's apostles and the strong influence of a famous American Philosopher. Since childhood he attended school in Paroki Katolik Kearny, New Jersey. His teachers were Oskup and nuns, he also practiced his religion so earnestly that no one thought that he would become a priest. In 1900 he entered the Academy and College of St. Peter in Jersey City, among his teachers were Jesuits, and Pastor McLaughlin. McLaughlin forced him to enter the Jesuit Order after it end in 1907 (The New York Times Archieve, 1981). William Durant was also a historian and philosopher. He was a religion teacher, lecturer in Latin, French, English and taught Geometry at Seton Hall College, South Orange, New Jersey, a writer and observer of social problems in his day. In the matter of aqidah, he often equated Islam and Judaism, sometimes equating it with Christianity (Will Durant, 1950).

2.2 Overview on Book: The Story of Civilization

The book The Story of Civilization was written for 45 years and some even say almost 50 years. It has a total of 11 volumes that have been translated into various languages up to more than 20 languages. The first volume "Our Oriental Heritage" was published in 1935, volume II. "The Life of Greece" was published in 1939, volume III "Caesar and Christ" was published in 1944, volume IV. "The Age of Faith" was published in 1950, volume V entitled "The Renaissance" was published in 1953, volume VI entitled "The Reformation" was published in 1957, volume VII "The Age of Reason Begins" was published in 1961, after that volume VIII on "The Age of Louis XIV" was published in 1963, volume IX entitled "The Age of Voltaire" was published in 1965, volume X "Rousseau and Revolution" was published in 1967, and the last volume, XI volume entitled "The Age Of Napoleon" was published in 1975 (The New York Times Archieve, 1981).

His works discuss the past life related to law, rules, customs, economics, government, education, politics, family, agriculture, trade, development of knowledge, religions of all world, religious practice, harmony among people, religion, war, slavery, the conclusion of all the good and bad of all aspects of life that has ever occurred in history (Will Durant, 1950). This book is very phenomenal, full of criticism from historians and has a controversial style of research method but it managed to get the attention of millions of readers so that the book is multiplied in print to this day (Oscar Wilde, 2020). William Durant's model of thinking in this work is different from his other works. This book "The Story of Civilization" is his extraordinary work with his beloved wife. Even in the writing of each volume of this book assisted by all family members starting from himself, his wife, his children, and even his grandchildren are involved in editing, typing and contributing ideas. Great people with expertise also play a role in coloring this extraordinary work. The use of the word "Story" for the title of his work is an innovation of Durant to get the attention of the general public while reading it.

3. Methodology

The form of research is qualitative with the Historical Approach and further literature review using contents analysis and comparison. The data sources in this study are primary data sources as primary data and secondary data as

supporting data. Scope of study is to discuss the five concepts of syariat teachings in the samawi religion among them are polygamy, hijab, alcohol, prohibition of usury, music and pictures.

4. Result and Discussion

The findings of a study on the concept of syariat teachings in the samawi religion by Will Durant in his books The Story of Civilization will be presented in the following table:

Table 1 - The concept of syariat teachings in the Samawi religion according to Will Durant through The Story of Civilization

No	Aspect	Religion			Results	
		Yahudi	Nasrani	Islam	Similarities	Differences
1	Poligamy	Allowed marry the desired woman without any maximum limit, but in another Traktat that a man could only marry four women.	There is no specific explanation by Durant of polygamy in Christianity	Polygamy is allowed but is limited to four women	Yahudi and Islam alike allow men to have polygamy	The difference, in Kristen/Nasrani is not explained by Durant
2	Pictures & Music	Prohibited Jews forbid pictures and music	Allowed Christians didn't forbid pictures and music	Prohibited Islam forbid pictures and music	Yahudi and Islam alike forbid music and images	The difference is, in Christianity does not prohibit music and images
3	Consuming Usury	Prohibit consuming usurious property	Prohibit usury	Prohibit usury	All samawi religions equally forbid usury	No difference
4	Drinking alcohol	There is no prohibition in this regard, it can even be served to guests during religious festivals	There is no prohibition in this case, same as Yahudi	Prohibit drinking alcohol	Yahudi and Nasrani alike allow alcoholism	The difference is, Islam forbids drinking alcohol
5	Hijab	In Yahudi it is not explained by Durant	In Christianity there is a requirement for women to wear a headscarf, especially in the church during worship	In Islam, it is obligatory for women to wear hijab (veil)	Christians and Muslims alike require the headscarf	The difference is, in Yahudi Durant does not explain the obligation

5. Study Discussion

Based on the table given, it is found that there are similarities in the concepts of the teachings of the Islamic religion (Yahudi, Nasrani and Islamic) according to Will Durant, although there are some differences. Discussions related to this matter are as follows:

5.1 Polygamy

The word polygamy comes from the Greek word "polygamie", poly means many and gamie means man. Polygamy is a man who marries more than one woman at a time (Abdullah, S.R, 2004). In the concept of polygamy according to Will Durant in his book The Story of Civilization He explained that the concept of Islam is the same as Yahudi which

allows a man to have polygamy, even in Yahudi itself a man can marry as many women (without limit) (Will Durant, 1950) & (Muhammad Badran, 2001). The Rabi Yahudi said in another Traktat that a man could only marry four women. In the Board of Leviret (Board of Jewish rule) it is stated that a Jew must marry his brother's widow. Polygamy in Yahudi is not only a measure of coping in the care of offspring due to the large number of deaths but it is also a good thing according to them (Will Durant, 1950) & (Muhammad Badran, 2001). In Nasrani religion (Christianity), the concept of polygamy is not much mentioned by Will Durant, but he stated that maintaining marriage or polygamy is allowed as a condition for the Monk who will be ordained (appointed). This rule only applies at the beginning, after that the rule is tightened so that it is no longer allowed for a Rabi to be ordained (appointed) to marry, if he wants to marry then he must give up his Rabbi (Will Durant, 1950) & (Muhammad Badran, 2001). From the above description, the author can conclude that it is permissible for a Nasrani (Christian) to have polygamy as long as he is not a Rabbi. In Islam, Will Durant stated in his book that a man can marry more than one person (polygamy) because in his view the Arabs have high lust, so to maintain it is to marry more than one woman (Will Durant, 1950) & (Muhammad Badran, 2001). If observed from Will Durant's point of view above, then we can find similarities between the samawi religions (Yahudi, Christian and Islamic) on the concept of polygamy. For researchers, actually what Durant stated above needs a justification that the commandment of polygamy in Islam is not caused by the lust of Arabs, food and other factors, but the commandment of polygamy that is ordered in Islam is a solution to social problems.

5.2 Music and Pictures

Music here means the music and songs found in the church/synagogue that are sung either vocally or instrumentally. Pictures, on the other hand, are pictures of angels or gods that are depicted in such a way that for some believers, it can help reverence in reaching the Creator during worship. But some other believers forbid the picture because God cannot be equated with His created beings. In this concept, Will Durant states that music and pictures can be placed in churches by Christianity but cannot be placed in synagogues by Yahudi as well as in Islam (Will Durant, 1950) & (Muhammad Badran, 2001).

5.3 Consuming Usury

The word Kalimat riba comes from the Arabic language which is addition (Ziyadah), growing and increasing (Abu Sura'i Abdul Hadi, 1993). Therefore, riba is an additional taking either in a sale and purchase transaction or a loan or borrowing which is contrary to the principles of Islamic muamalat. The usury referred in this study is bank usury as well as individual receivables. Will Durant states that all samawi religions whether Yahudi, Nasrani (Christianity) and Islam in fact forbid Bank Riba as well as all forms of excess payment from the original money borrowed by the debtor (Will Durant, 1950) & (Muhammad Badran, 2001). According to Durant, every samawi religion is forbidden to consume usury and the practice of usury, but in fact the practice of usury is allowed in religion, such as Yahudi for example the practice of usury often takes place in economics and politics and even multiplied to non -Yahudi. Some other celestial religions do the practice but limit the number of percentages during the taking of his lap (Will Durant, 1950) & (Muhammad Badran, 2001). Will Durant's expression states that Islam forbids drinking alcohol (Arak) because if allowed it will lead to destruction. Maurice Maeterlinck: Dr. Durant's pen seems to clarify, to light up, to simplify everything it touches. At times one would believe he was listening to Montesquieu (Oscar Wilde, 2010). Allan Nevins; Columbia University Professor who provided his analysis, is an extraordinary effort of synthesis and interpretation, especially in the discussion of the three religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam (Oscar Wilde, 2010). Yoyo Hambali said that Durant was an objective outsider, especially in his view of Islam and another religion. (Yoyo Hambali, 2016).

5.4 Drinking Alcohol (Alcohol)

Khamar (alcohol) referred here is a drink made from wine or other fermented so that it is intoxicating for the drinker (Mughtar Asmaji, 2015). According to Durant, the concept of the teachings of the Syariat on drinking khamar (Arak) for each samawi religion has different laws. Yahudi and Nasrani (Christianity) drinking alcohol (Arak) is not forbidden, in fact it is used as a drink during the big day of religion. Even in the Christian faith the intoxicated churches seem to drink the blood of Jesus crucified and it is the request of Jesus when he was crucified first (Will Durant, 1950) & (Muhammad Badran, 2001). In Islam, Will Durant did not explain in detail about the prohibition of alcohol but he gave an example that one of the factors in the destruction of Khalifah al-Muntasir was alcohol (Will Durant, 1950) & (Muhammad Badran, 2001). Indirectly, Will Durant's expression states that Islam forbids drinking alcohol (Arak) because if allowed it will lead to destruction.

5.5 Hijab for Women

The meaning of hijab here is to cover the aurat for women from the top of the hair to the ends of the feet in addition to the face and palms (Mulhandi Ibn Haj, Dkk, 1986). In Nasrani (Christian) religion, the concept of hijab is explained by Will Durant that women's hair can seduce the lust of men who will perform worship in the church, in

addition it can also seduce the angels (Will Durant, 1950) & (Muhammad Badran, 2001). In the concept of Islamic law, Durant explained that women are prohibited from *tabarruj* (women show their beauty in front of men). But Prophet peace be upon him allowed women to go out of the house to fulfill his desires such as buying kitchen necessities to the market and so on. The wives of the Prophet peace be upon him are not allowed to talk to the companions of the prophet except behind the scenes. Although this rule exists but in fact women go out of the house freely without covering their aurat (hijab), this phenomenon occurred at the beginning of the migration of Prophet SAW but after that it changed to the obligation to cover the aurat until the Day of Judgment (Will Durant, 1950) & (Muhammad Badran, 2001). Durant's analysis in terms of maintaining morals in the religious rules above such as wearing the hijab, prohibiting drinking alcohol and others is the same in the Koran women are prohibited opening their genitals, women's genitalia from head to toe in Islam, then actually in Judaism and Christians are the same way, it is forbidden to mix men and women, covering the head is a sign of solemnity in worship. So in general the religious rules in creating al-karimah morality are the same in the three religions, but Durant does not explain in detail in Judaism and Christianity for example about the limits of women's genitalia as detailed in these rules in Islam (Will Durant, 1950).

6. Conclusion

The concept of syariat teachings in the samawi religion according to Will Durant in his work *The Story of Civilization* is in accordance with the concept of the religion of nature revealed by God to Prophet. Although in some syariat in the samawi religion Durant does not explain the concept in detail. This is because he focused more on other subjects such as politics and history so that he forgot to explain something that was desired, this matter was found after the researcher compared the concept of syariat teachings between the samawi religions. From the five concepts of syariat teachings, namely polygamy, music and pictures, consuming usury, drinking khamat (alcohol) and wearing hijab for women, then the fact is that there are similarities in terms of concepts and theories although in practice they are different. Even the concept of similarity in Durant's work *The Story of Civilization* is not limited to the five above, but he also views that the position of the scriptures of each samawi religion has the same function as a moral reference, the function of reason and faith in seeking truth, the method of collecting al-Hadis is the same as the method of collecting the Taurat, Mishna and Gemara, the concept of the faith of the Muslims is the same as the concept of the faith of the Yahudi that is to worship the Esa the use of the mosque is the same as the use of the church and synagogue, making the scriptures as a guide to life, the holy books of the heavenly religion both tell about heaven, hell, the grave, the supernatural and so on. Therefore, if the concept of religious law is understood and carried out well in daily life by its followers, then the attitude of religious tolerance, social and state will be calm and peaceful without the existence of quarrels and mutual truth between one religion and another (Will Durant, 1950). According to the researcher, what Durant has explained above that the similarities in terms of collecting hadith and the Jewish books of the Torah, Gemara and Mishna, may be true because in getting a news story, a hadith narrator goes for miles to get the source of the news from its origin, as the case in the book *Jewish*. As for the similarity of faith between Judaism and Islam, what Durant meant is that they both believe in one God, which is different from the faith of Christians who believe in the trinity, even though the names of the Jewish God and the Islamic God are different, namely Yahweh in Jewish and Allah in Islam, but for researchers, can understand what Durant's intention. Researchers also accept what Durant believed that humans do not change so history will repeat itself. So in the history of religions many events are repeated. The discrepancy of religious teachings applied by Jews and Christians is due to human factors who interpret their holy books and change them according to their desires. So that their religious teachings are no longer pure.

Acknowledgement

The authors would like to acknowledge the Universitas Islam Negeri Sulthan Thaha Saifuddin, Jambi, Indonesia and Centre for General Studies and Co-curricular, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, Johor

References

- Anonim. (2010). *Al Quran Dan Terjemahannya*. Bandung: Hilal Press
- Abdullah, S.R. (2004). *Poligami dan Eksistensinya*. Jakarta: Pustaka al-Riyad
- Abdul Hadi, A.S. (1993). *Bunga Bank Dalam Islam*. Surabaya: al-Ikhlash
- Muchtar Asmaji. (2015). *Dialog Lintas Mazhab Fiqh Ibadah dan Muamalah*. Jakarta: PT Kalola Printing
- Muhammad Badran. (2001). *Mutarjim buku Qishot al Hadharah*. Kairo: Hai`ah al-Masriah al-Aamah Lil Kitab
- Muhammad Asy-Syarqawi. (2006). *Talmud Kitab Hitam Yahudi Yang Menggemparkan*. T,tp: Sahara Publisher

Mulhandi Ibn Haj, Dkk. (1986). Enam Puluh Satu Tanya Jawab Tentang Jilbab. Bandung: Espe Pres

Oscar Wilde. (2020, Desember 26). Anybody can make history. Only a great man can write it, By the editors of Wisdom magazine and John Little. <http://will-durant.com/bio.htm>

The New York Times Archieve. (1981, November 9). Historian Will Durant Dies; Author of Civilization Series by United Press International

Will Durant (1950). The Age Of Faith, CHAP. XV, The Story of Civilization, BOOK III Judaic Civilization I35~I300 Simon And Schuster New York

Will Durant (1950). The Story of Civilization Volume IV The Age Of Faith, Copyright renewed (C) 1978 and Copyright renewed (C) 1994 Simon And Schuster New York

Will Durant (1950). The Age of Faith, A History of Medieval Civilization-Christian, Islamic, and Judaic, Simon and Schuster New York: Sixteenth Printing Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 35-1001

Will Durant (1950). Caesar and Christ, A History of Roman Civilization and of Christianity From Their Beginings to A.D. 325, Simon And Schuster New York • Eighteenth Printing Manufactured in The United States of America By The Haddon Craftsmen, Inc., Scranton, PA