

# ***Multicultural Society's Explanation of Islam***

## ***(Donation of Islam on Modern Man to Manage a Good Multicultural Society in the Globalization Era)***

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**Abstract**— Multicultural society is a reality of a society that cannot be rebutted in the era of globalization. It is composed of various models of communities. Every community model has its own character and history. Indonesia is a multicultural country spreading from Sabang to Merauke, from Mianggas to Rote Island. For Indonesian, a good understanding of the multicultural community concept is a basic necessity to get better knowledge as a basic foundation for the government to manage a good multicultural society in the globalization era. Thus, this study tries to make the religion of Islam as a framework of scientific thinking in explaining the multicultural society. It tries to get the paradigm of secular thinking. It understands that religion only limits on faith to the strength the supernatural which is realized in the form of worship. Through the methodology of history and the approach of mentality study assisted, it is found that the religion of Islam is potential to be a framework of scientific thinking that can be used in explaining the phenomenon of multicultural society. This study also finds that Islam is not only able to explain the reality of multicultural society, but it is also able to give the solution to a better condition for the modern men in managing multicultural society. As a result, they are happy, prosperous, humane, enjoying life, and living in peace on the complexity of life problems in the globalization era.

**Keywords**— *Islamic religion; social conflict; multicultural society*

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. *Measuring Islamic Opportunity as a Scientific Thinking Framework that Explains Reality in Social Community*

Pew Research Center notes that Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world. Muslims are growth 70% from 1.8 billion in 2015 to 3 billion by 2050 [1]. According to Lipka, the senior editor who focuses on religious studies at the Pew Research Center, there are two main factors that make Islam could grow so quickly; firstly, the birth rate of Islamic children is quite high. Michael Lipka said that throughout the world, Muslim women have children an average of 2.9 children compared to 2.2 for all other religious groups. Secondly, Islam is the youngest religious group; there are a lot of younger of Muslims than the other great religions. The average age of people who converts to Islam is at the age of 24 years in 2015. "Seven years younger than the average age of non-Muslims in the world", he said [1].

The observation that was submitted by the Pew Research Center over just focused on the internal growth of the Islamic religion. The increasing number of Muslims is seen from the side of a fairly high birth rates experienced by families who are Muslims. Pew Research Center also sees the phenomena which are so many people outside of Islam who become interested in becoming a moderate Islam. The phenomenon of a high wave modern man who claimed to be a Muslim is also one of the main factors that make Islam can grow rapidly in this era of globalization.

The data show that in the Western world today there is an increase in the wave of West people who are claimed to be a Muslim. Interestingly, the data show that the Western people who declared themselves as Muslims are not derived from the lower level, but the Westerners who accept Islam as their religion are great people, such as scientists, priests, politicians, and celebrities. Prof. Dr. Abdul Karim Germanus, European scholar; Prof. Dr. Maurice Bucaille, Surgeons of France; Prof. Dr. Jeffrey Lang, a mathematician from the United States; Dr. Fidelma, Neurologists of America. They are some of the prominent Western scientists who decided to become converts after discovering the truth of Islam [2] [3]. Yousef Easts, a former of American pastor; Kenneth Jenkins, ex-pastor of America; Jory Miller, a former Missionary of Canada; Mary Wattson, a former lecturer of American theology. They are some of the Christian clergies who decided to become converts after they discover the truth of Islam [4].

Cat Stevens, a famous singer in the Western world; Muhammad Ali and Mike Tyson are two boxers of the world who are so phenomenal. They are the celebrities of the world who decided to become converts after finding the truth of Islam [5]. A wave of acceptance of Islam as the religion of the world is moving quickly because many Western people in general who discovered the truth of Islam. Daily Columbia News Service, published on March 22, 2001, wrote that there is around 15 thousand Hispanics shift from Catholicism to Islam in United States of America. They are spread out in various cities such as Newark, Miami, Los Angeles and New York [5]

The data above show that the growing of Muslim population in the global world is not solely caused by the development of Islam itself, but it is also supported by the increasing of the world community that decides to become converts after they find the truth of Islam. These developments

show that Islam as a religion is not only able to make its adherents to survive the onslaught of current secularization which was developed by scientists in the West since the 15th century, but Islam is also able to attract West's scientists, whether from academics' scientists, Christian's scientists and celebrities to accept Islam as their religion. Islam sees as it will be a religion of the future, as projected by the Pew Research Center.

These data also show that Islam is not an irrational religion, as alleged by Western scientists who study religious phenomena, such as EB Tylor (1892-1917), Lucien Levy-Bruhl (1857-1945), James George Frazer (1854-1941), and they accuse that this religion as an opiate that damage the human mind, as Marx Karl's point of view on religion [6][7]. Islam is a scientific religion that can be understood and accepted by human's common sense. Islam is able to accommodate Western scientists known as people who are accustomed to thinking critically.

These developments indicate that religion in the Islamic perspective serves as the Basic Guide (ideology) in thinking and behaving positively for the modern man. Religion in the Islamic perspective has a very strategic role in order to build excellent individuals as the main pillar for the birth of an ideal society. The desired ideal Islamic society is a happy and prosperous society both individually and socially, as well as people who are concerned with ecological safety [8].

This is what makes us interested in trying to use Islam as a framework of scientific thinking in explaining the phenomenon of multi-cultural society that is developed in the era of globalization. This article is intended to extent the ability of Islam in explaining the scientifically multi-cultural society phenomenon as a proof. Islam could be developed as a framework of scientific thinking in social view and civic reality. Islamic experiment as a framework of scientific thinking in explaining social phenomena has been started by the scientists of Islam, such as Sayyed Hussein, Sayyed Naquib Al-Attas, and Ismail al-Faruqi [9]. Kuntowijoyo is one of the Indonesian Islamic scholars who follow the trail over the Islamic scientists in exploring the use of Islam as a framework of scientific thinking in seeing the social phenomena [10]. This article is a part of the efforts they are doing on it.

## II. OBJECT, METHODOLOGY, AND APPROACH TO STUDY

The main object of this study is to create a historical explanation of how is the process of the multi-cultural society's birth according to Islamic explanation, what are the main problems faced by the multi-cultural society and how are the solutions offered by Islam in solving the main problems faced by the multi-cultural society.

The method used in answering the above problems is a historical science method by making the concept of monotheism as the major concept, assisted concept of religious, social and other cultures in order to produce an explanation of multi-cultural society's history which is the object of this study [11] [12] [13].

## III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Tawhid concept is a central concept in Islam. The concept of Tawhid is only owned by the Islamic religion. *Laailahallallaah* is the essence of the concept of monotheism. The concept of monotheism contains three mutual meanings which have synergy to one another. The first meaning is the meaning of *rububiyah* which states that God is a God who created the universe and everything in it, including the man himself. God as Creator is referred to God as a Creator, whereas the universe and everything in it refer to the results of the creation of God called the creature. The second meaning is *uluhiyah*, which states that all of God's creatures should be obedient to the laws that God has made and has set for each creature. The third meaning is *asthma*, which states that God has the names and properties that reflect the Perfect of God itself as God's right to be worshiped by all of His creatures [14].

## IV. DISCUSSION

### A. Human on Islam Perspective

According to the concept of monotheism, up to now, the scientists in the West do not know the accurate meaning of a man. The theory of evolution proposed by Charles Darwin is still the main reference in understanding who and what human beings. According to the theory of evolution, it holds that modern man evolved from Primate, and primate itself evolved from beings who had been there before. According to the Theory of Evolution, the oldest living things are one-celled living things which are very simple, which among others called protozoa [15].

Christians believe that the first man was Adam, but they are not able to explain scientifically who exactly Adam to human common sense. The doctrine of Trinity as the parents of Christian is increasingly difficult for Christian to be accepted and understood by the common sense of men. In this issue of the Trinity doctrine, Karl Marx once said: "Sollsie in demLandeEmenglauben, dap 3 x 1 = 1)?" - "Can a believer in a country believes that 3 x 1 = 1) [16].

Islamic religion centered on the reopening of monotheism is able to provide a scientific explanation of a better concept of the nature of Adam as the first man in the earth. Before we explain who the man according to Islam we would like to explain a weakness theory of Darwinian evolution that explains the origin of man and how it impacts the modern man.

Maurice Bucaille, one of the renowned scientists in Southwestern is dubious on the theory of evolution proposed by Charles Darwin. According to Maurice Bucaille, the Evolution of Darwin was unable to explain scientifically how is the process of evolution of primates into a modern man with the changes of DNA. How DNA of primate could turn into human DNA? This is a difficult question to be answered by Charles Darwin [17] [18]. In addition, Charles Darwin was also unable to explain where the origin celled creature came from, such as protozoa. Why protozoa were there, who manage it, and how the protozoan evolved to become

creatures of a higher quality? These are the main indications that the Theory of Evolution becomes a problematic Theory of Knowledge. As a problematic theory of knowledge, Theory of Evolution has been partly responsible for the birth of various ideologies problematic in modern human life, such as capitalism, racism, fascisms and communism.

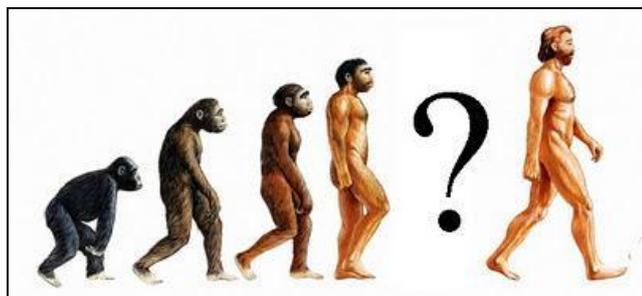


Fig 1. Overview of Man According to Charles Darwin Evolution

**B. Refuting Darwin Theory of Bananas' Evolution**

In order to strengthen the assumption that humans are originated from a human, then we propose a theory of knowledge that we have found empirically, namely the theory of Bananas. "The theory of Bananas" will strengthen "Creation Theory" proposed by HarunYahya, or "Theory of Tawhid" which becomes the main concept in this article. According to the theory of Bananas, man has the same status as the banana itself, which is equally as God's creatures. Bananas justify their theory of evolution, but evolution was occurring in the human sphere. Such as bananas, Adam as the first human being was big and tall, then gradually evolved into the smaller as today's modern man.

So, Bananas reinforce the theory that the first man was Adam and created directly by God as a God who created the heavens, the earth and everything in it. Humans are not the result of evolution from apes. Humans are the only creatures of God in the universe. Humans, monkeys, and bananas are equally as God's creatures. They differ in terms of creation. Humans, monkeys, and bananas have their ancestors in accordance with the "Theory of Creation" -"Theory of Tawhid".



Fig 2. Bananas  
To the end, it gets shrinking (Pygmy)



Fig 3. Based on the Theory of Human Evolution

**C. Knowing that Adam as an Ancestor of Multicultural Society**

In accordance with the theory of Tawhid -Creation Theory, which is supported by the theory of Bananas, the first humans were present on earth was Adam and his wife, Eve. They are the ancestors of today's humans who have developed into a multicultural society. Knowing Adam as the ancestor of a multicultural society is the first step in formulating strategic steps that modern man can consider themselves as parts of a multicultural society.

Adam was created by God as God's caliph in a charge of managing the earth as God's creation by making Islam as a basic guide in managing the earth. As a result, Adam could build a life that was happy, prosperous and progressive on earth that could be enjoyed by the Children of Adam in a fair way and humane. God explained:

*"Remember when your Lord said to the angels, 'Verily I will create a vicegerent on earth ...'(Surah Al-Baqarah (2): 30).*

Why does God believe in man as His caliph on earth? This question can be answered with the word of Allah in Surah At-Tin.

*"Verily, we created man in the most perfect form."* (Surah At-Tin: 4).

This verse corresponds to the reality of the universe as God's creature. Scientifically speaking, humans are the most perfect creatures of God, both physical and mental. Physically, humans perform upright and have a body that is beautiful and perfect. Mentally, humans have the ability to think exceptionally when they are compared with others of God's creatures. Perfection is what makes God establishes man as the Caliph on earth.

Although humans are the most perfect creatures of God, but as beings, humans are bound by one of the basic laws of man as a creature of God, the "Law of Limitations". "Legal Limitations" is one of the universal laws that apply to all creatures, including humans. "The Law of Perfection" is only for God, as the Creator. Based on that basis, Allah then sends down the right religion (Islam) which serves the Basic Guide for Adam and his descendants to build a positive civilization on the earth.

Tawhid sentence which reads as "laailahailallah"- "There is no God of truth to be worshiped except Allah", is the origin of the right religion (Islam) which is passed on to Adam and his descendants. True religion (Islam) is orphaned in the

phrase of unity that serves as a guide to think and act for Adam, his children, and grandchildren to be able to build a positive civilization on earth. The positive civilization is a civilization that is happy, prosperous, and progressive that was enjoyed by Adam and his children fairly and humanely. So, true religion (Islam) is the basic requirement for Adam and his descendants to act as managers on the earth. If the straight religion (Islam) does not exist or is marred by Adam and his grandchildren, Adam and his descendants will be confused in managing themselves and managing the responsibility of the earth as caliphs. The absence or damage of the Basic Guide potentially makes a bad society, as described by Erich Fromm, a German cultural psychologist. Erich Fromm explained that capitalism is the source of the growth of a bad society and capitalism must be corrected in order to develop a good society [19].

#### *D. History and Roots of Community of Multicultural Conflict*

Based on the concept of Tawhid, it can be established that the emergence of today's multicultural is the accumulation of a long journey of human history as a caliph on earth. It was originated from the family of Adam and Eve as a first family man who was mandated by God in establishing caliphate on earth. This issue has been explained by Allah in the Qur'an. Allah explains in Surah An-Nisa (4): 1, which states "man came from Adam, as the first creature that God has created from among men." God explained again in Surah Ar-Rum (30): 22 that stated "and among the signs of His (greatness) are the creation of the heaven and the earth, and the difference in language and skin color. Indeed, those are the signs for those who know. "So these two verses assert that modern man is derived from the family of Adam and Eve, and Adam was the first creature that God has created among humans.

Why can humans develop into as many as the reality of a multicultural society that exists today? This question can only be answered by the theory of lust. Lust is a natural energy that exists in man. Naturally, lust is driven by three natural pleasures; they are the pleasure of romance, social pleasure, and material comfort. Natural pleasure is what humans' heart and mind drove by lust (natural energy) to move actively in building a civilization. In the process of fighting this natural human pleasure, it is prone to conflict, either on the humans or the surrounding environment. Allah revealed Islam as a true religion to guide the humans' heart and mind and other natural pleasures are properly used according to their development which can be enjoyed fairly and humanely [20] [21].

If the modern man lives with the problematic knowledge, such knowledge which was based on the Theory of Evolution, it will make modern humans very easily engage to conflicts of interest that are very dangerous to humans' modern life. Why is it so? The answer is because the mind and positive behavior in managing the natural pleasures which attract a man are not enforced. Humans need a basic knowledge that is powerful, understandable, and acceptable by the hearts and minds of men to be thought and acted positively. Those are the only ways that could make people able to enjoy togetherness on the earth; without further involved in violent conflicts which are very dangerous for the man himself. Knowledge of

monotheism is the basic knowledge, not the knowledge of the others. History has proved that humans who understand the concept of monotheism properly, they then managed to apply the concept of positive thinking and acting as an actor of history in his time.

#### *E. Mutual Understanding: The Best Solution in Multicultural Society*

A long history has led the journey to the family of Adam and Eve that grew and developed into a multicultural society. A multicultural society is a society that has a basic knowledge of difference. The difference of basic knowledge can be in the form of religion, the basic character inherited from ancestors, ideologies and rational. The Cultural difference makes a modern man be rather prone to conflict. The conflict could happen when people have a culture that is not built with the core of basic knowledge in the phrase of unity.

When modern humans understand the concept of monotheism properly, the modern men will be able to manage multicultural society in a better way. Why is it so? The answer is because they properly understand that they are the descendants of Adam and Eve who are created deliberately by God to manage the earth, to have a true religion (Islam), and to guide their thinking and behavior. They will be able to accept differences and they will be able to try learning the differences in a positive mind and heart so that they can understand each other and know each other. They are aware that the best man among all is a man with the most excellent quality of tawhid. It is described in Surah Al-Hujurat: 13.

"O mankind! Surely We have created you from a male and a female and made you nations and tribes, that you may get acquainted with one another. Surely the most honorable of you in the Presence Allah is he who is the most pious of you. Surely Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware."

Thus, the above verse emphasizes about "mutual knowing and mutual understanding to each other in the straight religion (Islam)" which must be taken as an only way for modern humans to manage multicultural society in a good way to avoid conflicts that could endanger humans themselves. As the consequence, it can make modern men are not able to enjoy happy, prosperous and progressive life in fairly and humanely way.

The above verse also asserts that "Man who has Tawhid is the best man in a Multicultural Society". What is the reason? The reason is because a person with tawhid who understands himself as God's creature is bound by "the law of limitations" who then consciously makes the right religion (Islam) as a basic guide for him to think and behave, so that he could be a man who always thinks and behaves positively as an integral part of a multicultural society.

What are the traits of the best man as monotheism human? The main characteristic of Tawhid Humans is they are always consistent in their prostrate (establish prayer) to Allah. Why should pray for the main parameter? The answer is because there are no other social facts which can be used as an empirical evidence to differentiate humans who understand tawhid properly and others who do not understand tawhid properly, except the prayer itself. As human's activity

prostration in prayer on the basis of a clear knowledge, human beings can be said to be a social fact and the man is called the Human One. If humans do not establish the prayer, we will never kneel to God; whereas, if men never bow to God, empirically, there will no other facts that can be used to show that the men acknowledge that they are human beings who have tawhid. Therefore, prayer is one of the empirical facts that can be used as benchmarks of tawhid of one person. If people already establish the prayer that men had been proven empirically, they already recognize monotheism of God. Furthermore, when the prayer was studied properly, prayer will help the perpetrator to be more powerful humans in thinking and behave positively and more powerful humans in avoiding themselves from the problems of thoughts and behavior. If modern men are able to understand this concept properly, the modern man will be able to function positively in efforts and to create a society with multicultural sound, in which there is happiness, prosperity, and progress that is enjoyed together in a fair and humane way.

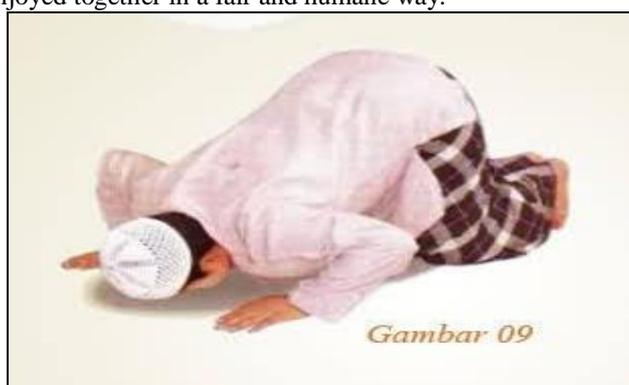


Fig 4. Homage

About Activities: *Activity of prostration is the only empirical fact that proves humans consciously acknowledge him as God's creatures on earth.*

If people already understand the concept of monotheism properly, then followed by establishing praying with an awareness of ourselves as creatures of God who have weaknesses and shortcomings; as a result, the man of monotheism will have better strength to think and act positively. They will be more inspired to make the teaching of monotheism as a basic guide to their thinking and behavior. As monotheism humans, they are not only able to respect fellow human beings, but they are also able to appreciate the creatures of God around them positively. In this issue, The Prophet Muhammad SAW has been advised. The following message is sent to the human of monotheism.

"Do not pee on the animals' hole, on the street where passed by people, at the shelter, in the spring, in the baths, under a tree that is bearing fruit, or water that flows towards the people who are bathing or washing." (Muslim and Tirmidhi) [22].

In another hadith, the Prophet tells:

"Avoid these two terrible things!". The Companions asked, "Are these two acts, O Messenger of Allah?" He replied,

"People defecate in the street where people pass or where they shelter (such as under a tree)" (Muslim) [22].

The messages of the Prophet above are clear evidences that monotheism man has a great potential to be human beings who are able to think and act positively and also interact with other humans and creatures of God in their surrounding. This underlies our monotheism human as the basic requirements for managing a good multicultural society in the era of globalization.

Human beings such those who have tawhid should be developed academically; scientists in academic institutions can develop any field of knowledge to help the modern man achieves two multicultural heaven at once, namely inner and outer heaven, heaven in the world and the hereafter. This is called a concept of society *rahmatanlil'alam*, which makes people more happy, more healthy and more. Those are positives multicultural society in all areas of life.

Case of Indonesian Muslims Protest held in Jakarta for several times attended by millions of people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, from Sabang to Merauke is a very interesting case; monotheism man is the best man in multicultural societies. We cannot imagine what will happen in Jakarta if millions of mass acted several times are human beings who already convinced Communist religion as an opiate and capitalism as an eternal enemy. As some experiences in various countries, then Jakarta will bear witness to the passing of the Bloody Revolution in order to realize a Communist society aspired by supporters.

Indonesian Muslims protest the evidence that monotheism man is not only able to build cross-cultural communication under the umbrella of monotheism, but monotheism humans can also appreciate proportionately the followers of other religions and ecological environment where monotheism humans were. The case of protest of Indonesian Muslims which run orderly and peaceful from the beginning to the end, is able to provide a safe road for a pair of candidates for the new bride of Christian in order to carry out the process of the wedding at the church in accordance with their religion; as well as the ability of Peace Indonesian Muslims in preserving the ecology of Jakarta, those are the facts about monotheism people who studied and developed academic managing society of a good multicultural manner so that modern men can still have safer live, happier live, more prosperous live, more advanced live, and avoid conflicts that can harm the modern man himself.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

In Islam, core explanation of the concept of Tawhid in multicultural society is an accumulation of a long journey of human history that originated from the family of Adam and Eve. True religion (Islam) is a basic need for humans in the development of civilization. True religion (Islam) is a basic guide that God gives to humans so that people can make the right religion (Islam) as a guide to think and behave on the positive effort in civilization on earth. The characteristics of positive civilization are when the happiness, prosperity, and progress could be enjoyed together with a fair and humane

manner so that the happiness, prosperity, and progress do not belong to only a group of people.

Monotheism human is a man who understands the phrase of unity "*laailahailallaah*" properly which develop a strong consciousness to establish prayers as an empirical evidence that humans consciously know that he is a creature of God on earth. Islam will be the main source for modern man to continue to think and behave positively as the main laden for the development of a good multicultural society. On that basis, we can affirm that the basic requirement for modern humans living in multicultural society is Islam as a straight religion.

Islam is not a man-made religion, as believed by Western scientists. Islam religion is a basic guide to life given directly by God to Adam and his descendants. If Islam can be understood and developed as a way of academic thought, then according to our analysis, the earth will be able to be saved from the conflicts that are not necessary and modern human beings will be able to enjoy happy, prosperous and progressive live together in fairly and humanely way. "Man of monotheism is the best man as a member of multicultural society".

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