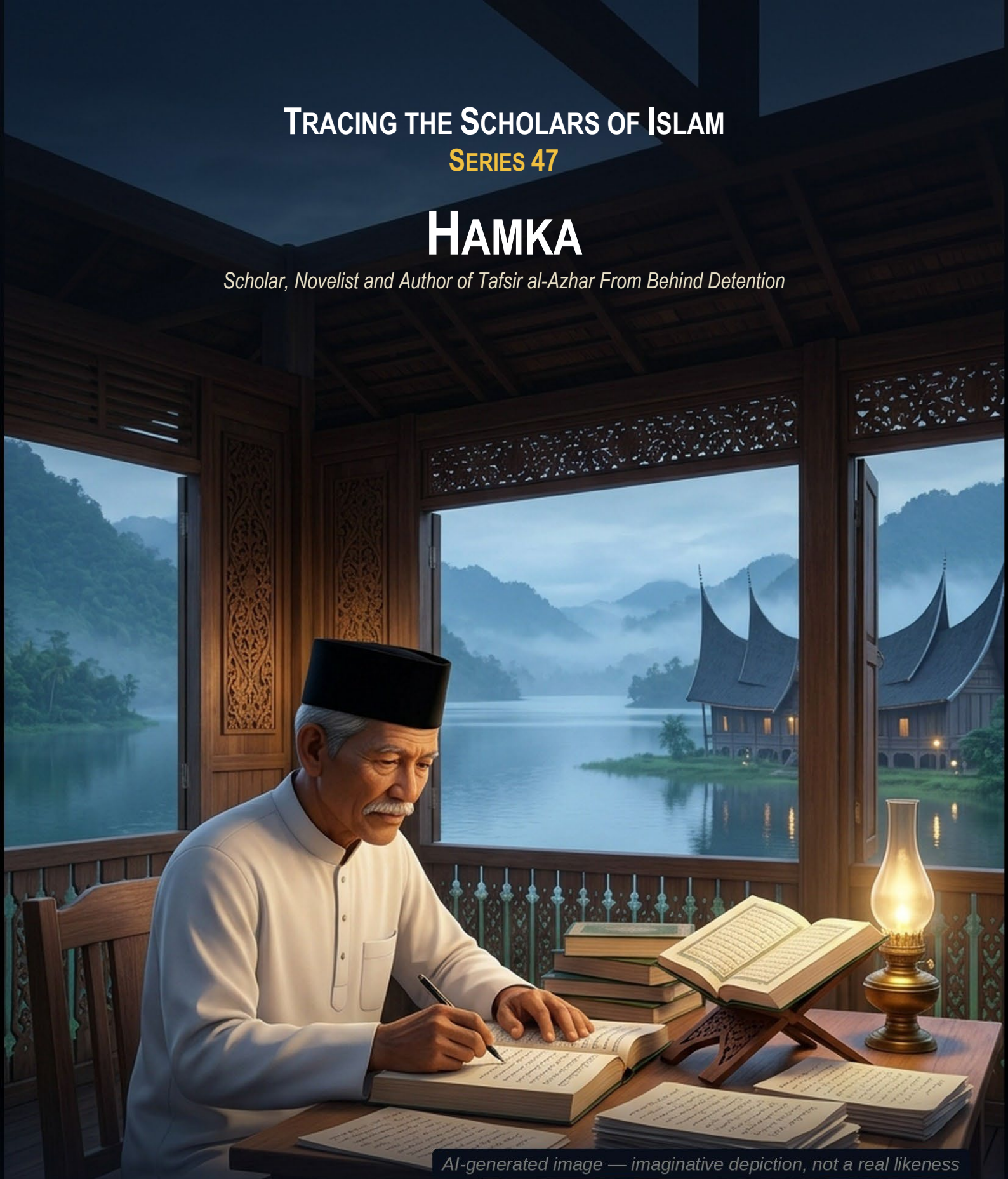
Tracing the Scholars of Islam

Series 47

Hamka

Scholar, Novelist and Author of Tafsir al-Azhar From Behind Detention



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

TRACING THE SCHOLARS OF ISLAM

SERIES 47

HAMKA

Scholar, Novelist and Author of Tafsir al-Azhar From Behind Detention

إِنَّ مَعَ ٱلْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا

"Indeed, with hardship [will be] ease."

SURAH ASH-SHARH 94:6

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise is due to Allah, who placed ease with every hardship. Blessings and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, and upon his family and his Companions.

This eBook is specially dedicated to my beloved wife,

ZAHARAH MOHD LATIF;

my dear children,

MUHAMMAD HAFIZ, NOOR HAZWANI, ABDUL HAKIM, NOOR HIDAYAH, NOR AQILA and **NOR ATIQAH**;

and my sons- and daughters-in-law,

FAZILAH, MALEK, HANIN, FAIRIZAL and **FIRWAN**.

This forty-seventh book of Tracing the Scholars of Islam tells the story of Haji Abdul Malik Karim Amrullah — Hamka — a son of Maninjau who became a scholar, journalist, novelist and Qur'an commentator, and completed Tafsir al-Azhar while in detention. May his story teach us patience in trials, forgiveness, and to keep writing for the Ummah.

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ABOUT THE COVER OF THIS EBOOK

The cover of this eBook is an **AI-generated image** — an ***imaginative depiction, not the real likeness*** of Hamka. This label is also printed on the cover. A scholar in a black peci, white shirt and checked sarong sits at ***a wooden desk***, ***writing by hand*** in a thick manuscript — a symbol of ***Tafsir al-Azhar***, which he wrote by hand.

On the desk are ***a Mushaf on a reading stand***, ***stacks of handwritten pages*** and ***a lit oil lamp*** — symbols of long years of writing, including while he was ***in detention*** in 1964–1966.

Through the window is ***a misty lake among mountains*** at dawn, like ***Lake Maninjau*** where he was born, and ***Minangkabau rumah gadang*** with their horn-shaped roofs.

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CONTENTS

HAMKA — *Introducing the scholar*

1. WITH HARDSHIP COMES EASE — *ash-Sharh 94:5–6; Sahih Muslim 2999*

2. A FATHER'S COUNSEL — *Luqman 31:13; Sahih al-Bukhari 71*

3. BACKGROUND: MINANGKABAU AND THE REFORM MOVEMENT — *History note*

4. BORN BY LAKE MANINJAU — *Timeline*

5. DINIYAH AND SUMATERA THAWALIB — *Sahih Muslim 2699*

6. JOURNEYING TO JAVA — *Figure: travels*

7. HIS FIRST HAJJ — *Sahih al-Bukhari 1773*

8. WITH MUHAMMADIYAH — *Al 'Imran 3:104*

9. MEDAN AND PEDOMAN MASYARAKAT — *Ibrahim 14:24*

10. HAMKA'S NOVELS — *ash-Shu'ara' 26:224–227; Sahih al-Bukhari 6145*

11. STORIES THAT CARRY LESSONS — *Yusuf 12:111*

12. INDEPENDENCE AND POLITICS — *an-Nisa' 4:135; Sahih al-Bukhari 6094*

13. AN HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM AL-AZHAR — *al-Mujadilah 58:11*

14. DAWN LECTURES AT THE AL-AZHAR MOSQUE — *Sahih al-Bukhari 5027*

15. ARRESTED IN RAMADAN — *al-Baqarah 2:153; Sahih al-Bukhari 3612*

16. A TAFSIR FROM BEHIND DETENTION — *Figure: tafsir; Al 'Imran 3:139*

17. FEATURES OF TAFSIR AL-AZHAR — *az-Zumar 39:18; Figure: influences*

18. HAMKA AND MALAYSIA — *Sahih Muslim 2664*

19. CHAIRMAN OF THE INDONESIAN ULEMA COUNCIL — *Sahih al-Bukhari 7138; al-Kafirun 109:6*

20. ESTABLISHED REPORTS AND POPULAR STORIES — *al-Isra' 17:36*

21. HIS DEATH AND LEGACY — *Al 'Imran 3:185; Sahih al-Bukhari 1*

22. LESSONS AND CONCLUSION — *Twelve lessons*

GLOSSARY AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

REFERENCES

SUPPORT & DONATIONS

Colour guide: green box = verses of the Qur'an; gold box = Hadith; brown box = history note (reports from the books of history and biography); blue table = comparison. Underlined blue narrator names can be clicked to open the narrator's page on sunnah.com.

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HAMKA

The forty-seventh book of **Tracing the Scholars of Islam** tells the story of ***Haji Abdul Malik Karim Amrullah*** (1908–1981 CE), famous by his pen name ***Hamka*** — scholar, journalist, novelist and Qur'an commentator from ***Minangkabau***, West Sumatra.

He wrote ***over 100 books***, including the novels ***Di Bawah Lindungan Ka'bah*** and ***Tenggelamnya Kapal Van der Wijck***, and ***Tafsir al-Azhar*** in 30 juz' — ***mostly written while he was in detention*** in 1964–1966.

This eBook explains ***the verses on patience and ease***, the background of ***the reform movement in Minangkabau***, his travels, ***his novels***, ***Tafsir al-Azhar***, his ties with ***Malaysia***, and his role as ***chairman of the Indonesian Ulema Council***.

Note: The translation of Qur'anic verses in this eBook is that of Sahih International. The grading of each Hadith is stated in the Hadith box. Information from books of history and modern research is **biographical narration (not Hadith)** *and is placed in the brown "History Note" boxes. The cover image is an AI-generated image and is marked as such. Some dates differ between sources and are noted in chapter 20.*

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WITH HARDSHIP COMES EASE

SURAH ASH-SHARH 94:5–6

فَإِنَّ مَعَ ٱلۡعُسۡرِ يُسۡرًا ۝٥

For indeed, with hardship [will be] ease.

إِنَّ مَعَ ٱلۡعُسۡرِ يُسۡرًا ۝٦

Indeed, with hardship [will be] ease.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/94:5-6

Allah stresses it twice: ***"Indeed, with hardship [will be] ease"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 94:5.

This verse is the ***motto*** of this eBook because Hamka's life was full of ***hardships that turned into ease***. His greatest hardship — ***two years in detention*** — became the time in which he ***completed Tafsir al-Azhar***.

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ALL THE BELIEVER'S AFFAIRS ARE GOOD

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2999

حَدَّثَنَا هَدَّابُ بْنُ خَالِدٍ الأَزْدِيُّ، وَشَيْبَانُ بْنُ فَرُّوخَ، جَمِيعًا عَنْ سُلَيْمَانَ بْنِ الْمُغِيرَةِ، - وَاللَّفْظُ لِشَيْبَانَ - حَدَّثَنَا سُلَيْمَانُ، حَدَّثَنَا ثَابِتٌ، عَنْ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنِ أَبِي لَيْلَى، عَنْ صُهَيْبٍ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «عَجَبًا لأَمْرِ الْمُؤْمِنِ إِنَّ أَمْرَهُ كُلَّهُ خَيْرٌ وَلَيْسَ ذَاكَ لأَحَدٍ إِلاَّ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ إِنْ أَصَابَتْهُ سَرَّاءُ شَكَرَ فَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُ وَإِنْ أَصَابَتْهُ ضَرَّاءُ صَبَرَ فَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُ».

TRANSLATION:

Suhayb رضى الله عنه reported that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"How wonderful is the affair of the believer, for all of his affairs are good for him, and this is for no one except the believer. If something pleasing befalls him, he is grateful, and that is good for him; and if hardship befalls him, he is patient, and that is good for him."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Haddab ibn Khalid al-Azdi and Shayban ibn Farrukh, both from Sulayman ibn al-Mughirah, from Thabit al-Bunani, from 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn Abi Layla, from Suhayb ar-Rumi رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Asceticism and Softening of Hearts, Hadith No. 2999.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim, the second most authentic book of Hadith after Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2999

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

For the believer, ***blessings*** are met with gratitude and ***trials*** with patience — and both become ***good***. Hamka faced prison with patience, and came out with ***a tafsir***.

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A FATHER'S COUNSEL

SURAH LUQMAN 31:13

وَإِذْ قَالَ لُقْمَٰنُ لِٱبْنِهِۦ وَهُوَ يَعِظُهُۥ يَٰبُنَىَّ لَا تُشْرِكْ بِٱللَّهِ ۖ إِنَّ ٱلشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿١٣﴾

And [mention, O Muhammad], when Luqman said to his son while he was instructing him, "O my son, do not associate [anything] with Allah. Indeed, association [with him] is great injustice."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/31:13

Luqman counsels his son: ***"O my son, do not associate [anything] with Allah"***. The Qur'an records ***a father's counsel*** as a model of education. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 31:13.

Hamka's father, ***Haji Abdul Karim Amrullah***, known as ***"Haji Rasul"***, was a famous reformist (islah) scholar of Minangkabau. He was Hamka's first teacher and inspiration.

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UNDERSTANDING OF THE RELIGION

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 71 (MUTTAFAQ ‘ALAIH)

حَدَّثَنَا سَعِيدُ بْنُ عُفَيْرٍ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا ابْنُ وَهْبٍ، عَنْ يُونُسَ، عَنِ ابْنِ شِهَابٍ، قَالَ قَالَ حُمَيْدُ بْنُ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ سَمِعْتُ مُعَاوِيَةَ، خَطِيبًا يَقُولُ سَمِعْتُ النَّبِيَّ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَقُولُ «مَنْ يُرِدِ اللَّهُ بِهِ خَيْرًا يُفَقِّهْهُ فِي الدِّينِ، وَإِنَّمَا أَنَا قَاسِمٌ وَاللَّهُ يُعْطِي، وَلَنْ تَزَالَ هَذِهِ الأُمَّةُ قَائِمَةً عَلَى أَمْرِ اللَّهِ لاَ يَضُرُّهُمْ مَنْ خَالَفَهُمْ حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ».

TRANSLATION:

Humayd ibn ‘Abd ar-Rahman said: I heard Mu‘awiyah رضى الله عنه delivering a sermon, saying: I heard the Prophet ﷺ say: **“Whoever Allah wishes good for, He gives him understanding of the religion. I am only a distributor, and Allah is the One who gives. This nation will remain upright upon the command of Allah; those who oppose them will not harm them, until the command of Allah comes.”**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Sa‘id ibn ‘Ufayr, from Ibn Wahb, from Yunus, from Ibn Shihab az-Zuhri, from Humayd ibn ‘Abd ar-Rahman, from Mu‘awiyah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Knowledge, Hadith No. 71. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 1037).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:71

Haji Rasul studied in ***Mecca*** — according to NU Online, he was among the students of ***Shaykh Nawawi al-Bantani*** (Book 45) — and came home with the spirit of ***returning to the Qur’an and Sunnah***. His son inherited this spirit.

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BACKGROUND: MINANGKABAU AND THE REFORM MOVEMENT

Minangkabau in West Sumatra is known for its ***matrilineal custom*** (descent through the mother), its culture of ***merantau*** (travelling abroad), and its tradition of the ***surau*** as a place of religious learning.

HISTORY NOTE: KAUM MUDA AND KAUM TUA

In the early 20th century CE, Minangkabau scholars returning from Mecca — such as ***Haji Rasul*** — led ***the islah (reform) movement***. They were known as ***Kaum Muda*** (the Young Group), and those who defended older practices as ***Kaum Tua*** (the Old Group).

The movement produced modern schools such as ***Sumatera Thawalib*** in Padang Panjang, where Hamka later studied.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Hamka". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamka

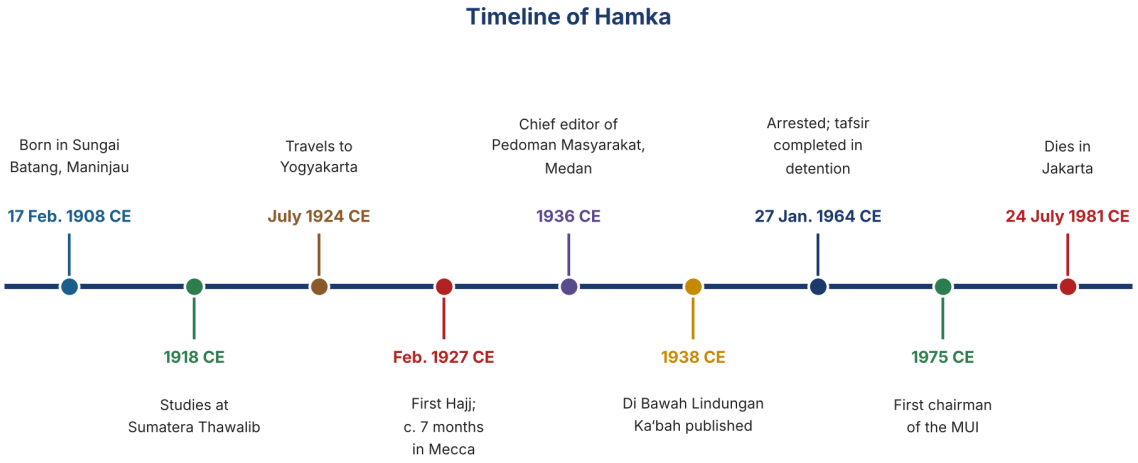
FEATURE OF MINANGKABAU	ITS EFFECT ON HAMKA
The merantau culture	He travelled to Java, Mecca, Makassar and Medan.
The surau tradition	He studied religion from childhood.
Matrilineal custom	A theme of criticism in his novels.
The reform movement	It shaped his reformist thought.

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BORN BY LAKE MANINJAU

Hamka was born on ***17 February 1908 CE*** in ***Nagari Sungai Batang***, on the shore of ***Lake Maninjau***, West Sumatra. His real name was ***Abdul Malik***, and "Hamka" is an abbreviation of ***Haji Abdul Malik Karim Amrullah***.

Sources: Sinar Harian and Wikipedia. https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/4954/kembara-rindu-buya-hamka



Sources: Wikipedia, HRMARS and Sinar Harian. He was released on 21 January 1966.

Figure 1: Timeline of Hamka.

Lake Maninjau is ***a volcanic crater lake*** surrounded by green hills — a landscape that often appears in Hamka's writings about his home village.

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DINIYAH AND SUMATERA THAWALIB

In ***1916 CE***, Hamka studied at ***the Diniyah School***, where he quickly mastered ***Arabic***. In ***1918 CE***, he entered ***Sumatera Thawalib***, a religious school that grew out of the reform movement.

HISTORY NOTE: A STUDENT WHO LOVED READING

The young Hamka preferred ***reading books*** on his own to sitting long hours in class. He learned much ***on his own*** — reading history, literature and religion.

This love of reading later made him ***a remarkably prolific writer***.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Hamka". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamka

THE PATH TO PARADISE

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2699

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ يَحْيَى التَّمِيمِيُّ، وَأَبُو بَكْرِ بْنُ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ وَمُحَمَّدُ بْنُ الْعَلاَءِ الْهَمْدَانِيُّ - وَاللَّفْظُ لِيَحْيَى - قَالَ يَحْيَى أَخْبَرَنَا وَقَالَ الآخَرَانِ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو مُعَاوِيَةَ، عَنِ الأَعْمَشِ، عَنْ أَبِي صَالِحٍ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «مَنْ نَفَّسَ عَنْ مُؤْمِنٍ كُرْبَةً مِنْ كُرَبِ الدُّنْيَا نَفَّسَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ كُرْبَةً مِنْ كُرَبِ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ وَمَنْ يَسَّرَ عَلَى مُعْسِرٍ يَسَّرَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالآخِرَةِ وَمَنْ سَتَرَ مُسْلِمًا سَتَرَهُ اللَّهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالآخِرَةِ وَاللَّهُ فِي عَوْنِ الْعَبْدِ مَا كَانَ الْعَبْدُ فِي عَوْنِ أَخِيهِ وَمَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَلْتَمِسُ فِيهِ عِلْمًا سَهَّلَ اللَّهُ لَهُ بِهِ طَرِيقًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ وَمَا اجْتَمَعَ قَوْمٌ فِي بَيْتٍ مِنْ بُيُوتِ اللَّهِ يَتْلُونَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَيَتَدَارَسُونَهُ بَيْنَهُمْ إِلاَّ نَزَلَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّكِينَةُ وَغَشِيَتْهُمُ الرَّحْمَةُ وَحَفَّتْهُمُ الْمَلاَئِكَةُ وَذَكَرَهُمُ اللَّهُ فِيمَنْ عِنْدَهُ وَمَنْ بَطَّأَ بِهِ عَمَلُهُ لَمْ يُسْرِعْ بِهِ نَسَبُهُ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Whoever relieves a believer of one of the hardships of this world, Allah will relieve him of one of the hardships of the Day of Resurrection. Whoever makes things easy for one in difficulty, Allah will make things easy for him in this world and the Hereafter. Whoever covers the faults of a Muslim, Allah will cover his faults in this world and the Hereafter. Allah helps His servant as long as the servant helps his brother. **Whoever follows a path in search of knowledge, Allah will make easy for him a path to Paradise.** No people gather in one of the houses of Allah, reciting the Book of Allah and studying it among themselves, except that tranquillity descends upon them, mercy

covers them, the angels surround them, and Allah mentions them among those who are with Him. And whoever is held back by his deeds will not be hastened forward by his lineage."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya ibn Yahya at-Tamimi, Abu Bakr ibn Abi Shaybah and Muhammad ibn al-'Ala' al-Hamdani, from Abu Mu'awiyah, from al-A'mash, from Abu Salih, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

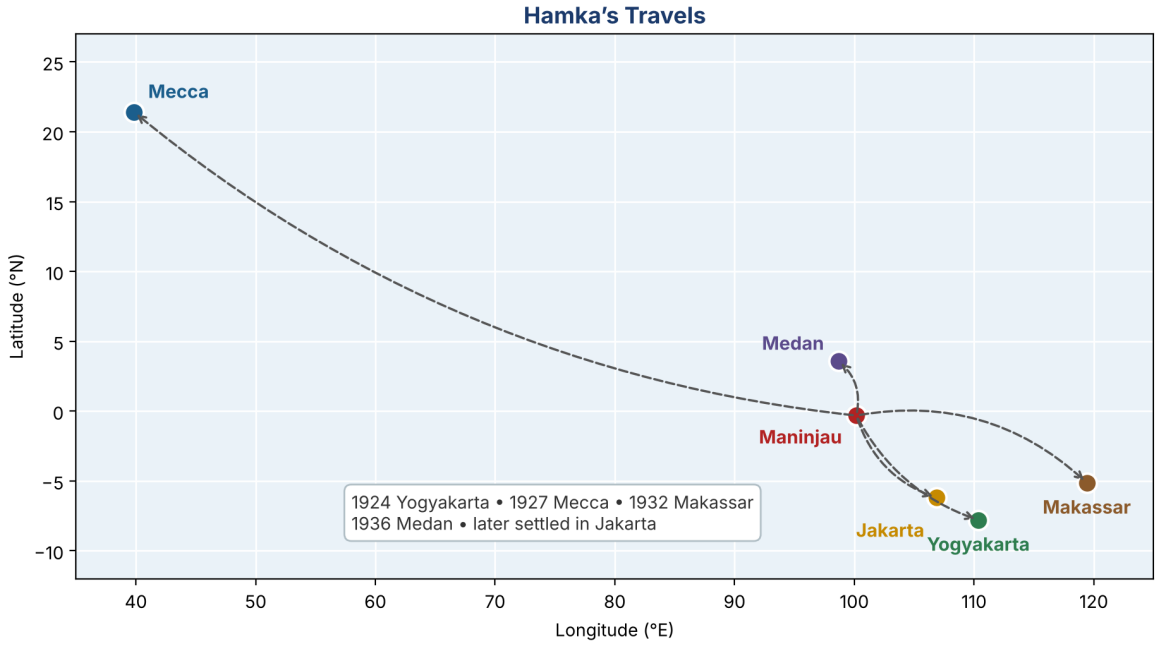
REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Remembrance, Supplication, Repentance and Seeking Forgiveness, chapter on the virtue of gathering to recite the Qur'an and remember Allah, Hadith No. 2699a.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim, the second most authentic book of Hadith after Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2699a

JOURNEYING TO JAVA

At ***the age of 15***, Hamka left his village for ***Java***, reaching ***Yogyakarta in July 1924 CE***. There he studied under ***HOS Tjokroaminoto*** and others, and joined ***Sarekat Islam***.



Approximate positions; arrows show places he went to from his home region, not actual routes. Source: Wikipedia.

Figure 2: Hamka's travels (approximate positions).

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HISTORY NOTE: YOGYAKARTA IN 1924

Yogyakarta was then a centre of ***Islamic and national movements***. Here Hamka encountered ideas about ***sociology, Islamic history*** and ***the struggle of the Ummah***.

His time in Java broadened his view — from a surau student in Maninjau to a young man thinking about ***the fate of his Ummah and nation***.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Hamka". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamka
Sinar Harian, "Kembara Rindu Buya Hamka". https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/4954/kembara-rindu-buya-hamka

YEAR	PLACE OF TRAVEL
1924 CE	Yogyakarta — study and organisation.
1927 CE	Mecca — his first Hajj.
1932 CE	Makassar — preparing the 21st Muhammadiyah Congress.
1936 CE	Medan — chief editor of Pedoman Masyarakat.

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HIS FIRST HAJJ

In ***February 1927 CE***, aged 19, Hamka set out for ***Mecca*** to perform his first Hajj, and stayed there ***about seven months***.

HISTORY NOTE: A NOVEL BORN IN MECCA

His experience in the Holy Land later became the setting of his first famous novel, ***Di Bawah Lindungan Ka'bah*** (Under the Protection of the Ka'bah, 1938), a story of unfulfilled love and longing for the House of Allah.

On his return, he became active in ***Muhammadiyah*** and helped run ***Kulliyatul Muballighin*** in Padang Panjang.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Hamka". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamka
Sinar Harian, "Kembara Rindu Buya Hamka". https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/4954/kembara-rindu-buya-hamka

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AN ACCEPTED HAJJ

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 1773

حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ يُوسُفَ، أَخْبَرَنَا مَالِكٌ، عَنْ سُمَيٍّ، مَوْلَى أَبِي بَكْرِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ عَنْ أَبِي صَالِحٍ السَّمَّانِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «الْعُمْرَةُ إِلَى الْعُمْرَةِ كَفَّارَةٌ لِمَا بَيْنَهُمَا، وَالْحَجُّ الْمَبْرُورُ لَيْسَ لَهُ جَزَاءٌ إِلاَّ الْجَنَّةُ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"(The performance of) 'Umrah is an expiation for the sins committed between it and the next 'Umrah, and the reward of an accepted Hajj (Hajj mabrur) is nothing except Paradise."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Abdullah ibn Yusuf, from Malik, from Sumayy (freed slave of Abu Bakr ibn 'Abd ar-Rahman), from Abu Salih as-Samman, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of 'Umrah, Chapter on the Obligation and Virtue of 'Umrah, Hadith No. 1773.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:1773

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WITH MUHAMMADIYAH

SURAH AL 'IMRAN 3:104

وَلْتَكُن مِّنكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى ٱلْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِٱلْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ ٱلْمُنكَرِ ۚ وَأُو۟لَٰٓئِكَ هُمُ ٱلْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿١٠٤﴾

And let there be [arising] from you a nation inviting to [all that is] good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong, and those will be the successful.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/3:104

"And let there be [arising] from you a nation inviting to [all that is] good". Tafsir Ibn Kathir 3:104.

Muhammadiyah, founded by KH Ahmad Dahlan in 1912 (see Book 45), became Hamka's field of struggle throughout his life.

YEAR	HAMKA'S ROLE IN MUHAMMADIYAH
1930 CE	Head of the Tabligh School (opened 1 January 1930).
1932 CE	Sent to Makassar for the 21st Congress.
1934 CE	Permanent member of the Central Sumatra council.
1946–1949 CE	Chairman of the West Sumatra leadership.
1953–1971 CE	Member of the central leadership; then adviser.

Source: Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamka

Muhammadiyah gave Hamka ***organisational experience***, preaching in many regions and meeting very different communities — valuable provisions for a writer and preacher.

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MEDAN AND PEDOMAN MASYARAKAT

In ***1936 CE***, Hamka moved to ***Medan*** and became ***chief editor*** of the magazine ***Pedoman Masyarakat***. It was here that he first used the pen name ***"Hamka"***.

SURAH IBRAHIM 14:24

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ ضَرَبَ ٱللَّهُ مَثَلًا كَلِمَةً طَيِّبَةً كَشَجَرَةٍ طَيِّبَةٍ أَصْلُهَا ثَابِتٌ وَفَرْعُهَا فِى ٱلسَّمَآءِ ﴿٢٤﴾

Have you not considered how Allah presents an example, [making] a good word like a good tree, whose root is firmly fixed and its branches [high] in the sky?

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/14:24

Allah gives the example of ***"a good word like a good tree"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 14:24.

HISTORY NOTE: A MAGAZINE AS A PULPIT

Through Pedoman Masyarakat, Hamka wrote on ***religion, history, culture and society***. In Medan he also met ***Soekarno*** and ***Mohammad Hatta***, leaders of Indonesian independence.

Like Tok Kenali with ***Pengasuh*** (Book 46), Hamka used ***a magazine*** to educate the Ummah.

REFERENCES:

Sinar Harian, "Kembara Rindu Buya Hamka". https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/4954/kembara-rindu-buya-hamka

A good word — true and beneficial writing — is firmly rooted and its branches reach high. Hamka's writings are still read almost ***a century*** later.

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HAMKA'S NOVELS

In ***1938 CE***, Hamka published ***Di Bawah Lindungan Ka'bah***, and in the same year serialised ***Tenggelamnya Kapal Van der Wijck*** (The Sinking of the Van der Wijck) in Pedoman Masyarakat.

SURAH ASH-SHU'ARA' 26:224

وَٱلشُّعَرَآءُ يَتَّبِعُهُمُ ٱلْغَاوُۥنَ ﴿٢٢٤﴾

And the poets - [only] the deviators follow them.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/26:224

The Qur'an criticises misguided poets, but makes an exception for ***"those [poets] who believe and do righteous deeds and remember Allah often"*** (26:227). Tafsir Ibn Kathir 26:224.

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HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 6145

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو الْيَمَانِ، أَخْبَرَنَا شُعَيْبٌ، عَنِ الزُّهْرِيِّ، قَالَ أَخْبَرَنِي أَبُو بَكْرِ بْنُ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ، أَنَّ مَرْوَانَ بْنَ الْحَكَمِ، أَخْبَرَهُ أَنَّ عَبْدَ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنَ الأَسْوَدِ بْنِ عَبْدِ يَغُوثَ أَخْبَرَهُ أَنَّ أُبَيَّ بْنَ كَعْبٍ أَخْبَرَهُ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «إِنَّ مِنَ الشِّعْرِ حِكْمَةً».

TRANSLATION:

Ubayy ibn Ka'b رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"Indeed, some poetry contains wisdom."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Abu al-Yaman, from Shu'ayb, from az-Zuhri, from Abu Bakr ibn 'Abd ar-Rahman, from Marwan ibn al-Hakam, from 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn al-Aswad ibn 'Abd Yaghuth, from Ubayy ibn Ka'b رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Good Manners, Chapter on Permissible Poetry, Rajaz and Camel-Songs, Hadith No. 6145.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:6145

NOVEL	THEME
Di Bawah Lindungan Ka'bah (1938)	Love, loyalty and longing for the House of Allah.
Tenggelamnya Kapal Van der Wijck (1938)	A critique of customs that stand in the way of justice.

Literature ***that carries wisdom*** can touch readers who never open a religious book. Hamka used ***the novel*** to convey values.

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STORIES THAT CARRY LESSONS

SURAH YUSUF 12:111

لَقَدْ كَانَ فِي قَصَصِهِمْ عِبْرَةٌ لِّأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ ۗ مَا كَانَ حَدِيثًا يُفْتَرَىٰ وَلَٰكِن
تَصْدِيقَ الَّذِي بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَتَفْصِيلَ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١١١﴾

There was certainly in their stories a lesson for those of understanding. Never was the Qur'an a narration invented, but a confirmation of what was before it and a detailed explanation of all things and guidance and mercy for a people who believe.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/12:111

"There was certainly in their stories a lesson for those of understanding". Tafsir Ibn Kathir 12:111.

The Qur'an itself uses ***stories*** to educate. Hamka followed this method: he wrote ***stories, history and novels*** that carry ***lessons***.

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HISTORY NOTE: THE PLAGIARISM CONTROVERSY

The novel Tenggelamnya Kapal Van der Wijck was once ***accused of copying*** a foreign work by the writer ***Pramoedya Ananta Toer***.

According to Sinar Harian, Hamka ***bore no grudge***: when Pramoedya later asked him to teach Islam to his future son-in-law, Hamka ***agreed***.

REFERENCES:

Sinar Harian, "Kembara Rindu Buya Hamka". https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/4954/kembara-rindu-buya-hamka

This story teaches the ***character*** of a scholar: answering criticism with work, and repaying ***hostility with kindness***.

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INDEPENDENCE AND POLITICS

After ***Indonesian independence (1945)***, Hamka entered politics with the ***Masyumi*** party, and was elected to ***Parliament in 1955***. Masyumi was later ***banned in 1960***.

Allah says (4:135): ***"be persistently standing firm in justice"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 4:135.

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HISTORY NOTE: THE SCHOLAR AND POWER

Hamka was known for ***speaking his mind courageously***, including criticising ***communist influence*** in the government in the early 1960s.

This courage eventually led to ***his detention*** in 1964 (chapter 15).

REFERENCES:

Sinar Harian, "Kembara Rindu Buya Hamka". https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/4954/kembara-rindu-buya-hamka

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 6094

حَدَّثَنَا عُثْمَانُ بْنُ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ، حَدَّثَنَا جَرِيرٌ، عَنْ مَنْصُورٍ، عَنْ أَبِي وَائِلٍ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «إِنَّ الصِّدْقَ يَهْدِي إِلَى الْبِرِّ، وَإِنَّ الْبِرَّ يَهْدِي إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ، وَإِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَيَصْدُقُ حَتَّى يَكُونَ صِدِّيقًا، وَإِنَّ الْكَذِبَ يَهْدِي إِلَى الْفُجُورِ، وَإِنَّ الْفُجُورَ يَهْدِي إِلَى النَّارِ، وَإِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَيَكْذِبُ، حَتَّى يُكْتَبَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ كَذَّابًا».

TRANSLATION:

'Abdullah ibn Mas'ud رضى الله عنه narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said: **"Truthfulness leads to righteousness, and righteousness leads to Paradise.** A man keeps telling the truth until he becomes a truthful person (siddiq). Lying leads to wickedness, and wickedness leads to the Fire. A man keeps lying until he is written before Allah as a liar."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Uthman ibn Abi Shaybah, from Jarir ibn 'Abd al-Hamid, from Mansur ibn al-Mu'tamir, from Abu Wa'il Shaqiq ibn Salamah, from 'Abdullah ibn Mas'ud رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Manners (Kitab al-Adab), Hadith No. 6094; also narrated by Muslim (No. 2607).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:6094

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AN HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM AL-AZHAR

Al-Azhar University, Cairo, awarded Hamka ***an honorary doctorate***. The ceremony was planned for February 1958, postponed, and held in ***March 1959*** in Jakarta.

Allah says (58:11): ***"Allah will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 58:11.

HISTORY NOTE: THE NAME "AL-AZHAR" IN JAKARTA

In ***1960***, ***Shaykh Mahmud Shaltut***, Rector of al-Azhar, visited Indonesia and named the Grand Mosque in ***Kebayoran Baru***, opposite Hamka's house, ***the al-Azhar Grand Mosque***.

From the name of this mosque came the name ***Tafsir al-Azhar***.

REFERENCES:

HRMARS, "Methodology of Interpreting Hamka in the Tafsir al-Azhar".
https://hrmars.com/papers_submitted/23849/methodology-of-interpreting-hamka-in-the-tafsir-al-azhar.pdf

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DAWN LECTURES AT THE AL-AZHAR MOSQUE

From ***the end of 1958***, Hamka gave ***a tafsir lecture every morning after the dawn prayer*** at the mosque opposite his house. From January 1962 to January 1964, these explanations were serialised in the magazine ***Gema Islam*** — but only ***one and a half juz'*** were published.

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 5027

حَدَّثَنَا حَجَّاجُ بْنُ مِنْهَالٍ، حَدَّثَنَا شُعْبَةُ، قَالَ أَخْبَرَنِي عَلْقَمَةُ بْنُ مَرْثَدٍ، سَمِعْتُ سَعْدَ بْنَ عُبَيْدَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ السُّلَمِيِّ، عَنْ عُثْمَانَ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ». قَالَ وَأَقْرَأَ أَبُو عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ فِي إِمْرَةِ عُثْمَانَ حَتَّى كَانَ الْحَجَّاجُ، قَالَ وَذَاكَ الَّذِي أَقْعَدَنِي مَقْعَدِي هَذَا.

TRANSLATION:

'Uthman رضى الله عنه reported that the Prophet ﷺ said: **"The best of you are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it."** (Sa'd ibn 'Ubaydah) said: Abu 'Abd ar-Rahman (as-Sulami) taught the Qur'an from the caliphate of 'Uthman until the time of al-Hajjaj, and he said: "That is what has kept me sitting in this seat of mine."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Hajjaj ibn Minhal, from Shu'bah, from 'Alqamah ibn Marthad, from Sa'd ibn 'Ubaydah, from Abu 'Abd ar-Rahman as-Sulami, from 'Uthman ibn 'Affan رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Virtues of the Qur'an, Hadith No. 5027.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:5027

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

A steady dawn lecture is the practice of ***learning and teaching the Qur'an***. Little by little, every morning, ***a 30-juz' tafsir*** was born.

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ARRESTED IN RAMADAN

On ***27 January 1964 (12 Ramadan 1383 AH)***, just after giving his dawn lecture, Hamka was ***arrested***. He was held for ***two years***, including at the detention centre in ***Sukabumi***.

HISTORY NOTE: THE CHARGES AGAINST HAMKA

According to Sinar Harian, he was accused of involvement in ***a plot to kill President Soekarno*** and of receiving funds from abroad. That source does not say the charges were ever proven.

He was ***released on 21 January 1966***.

REFERENCES:

HRMARS, "Methodology of Interpreting Hamka in the Tafsir al-Azhar". https://hrmars.com/papers_submitted/23849/methodology-of-interpreting-hamka-in-the-tafsir-al-azhar.pdf
Sinar Harian, "Kembara Rindu Buya Hamka". https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/4954/kembara-rindu-buya-hamka

SEEK HELP THROUGH PATIENCE AND PRAYER

Allah says (2:153): ***"seek help through patience and prayer. Indeed, Allah is with the patient"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 2:153.

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3612

حَدَّثَنِي مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ الْمُثَنَّى، حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى، عَنْ إِسْمَاعِيلَ، حَدَّثَنَا قَيْسٌ، عَنْ خَبَّابِ بْنِ الأَرَتِّ، قَالَ شَكَوْنَا إِلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم وَهُوَ مُتَوَسِّدٌ بُرْدَةً لَهُ فِي ظِلِّ الْكَعْبَةِ، قُلْنَا لَهُ أَلاَ تَسْتَنْصِرُ لَنَا أَلاَ تَدْعُو اللَّهَ لَنَا قَالَ «كَانَ الرَّجُلُ فِيمَنْ قَبْلَكُمْ يُحْفَرُ لَهُ فِي الأَرْضِ فَيُجْعَلُ فِيهِ، فَيُجَاءُ بِالْمِنْشَارِ، فَيُوضَعُ عَلَى رَأْسِهِ فَيُشَقُّ بِاثْنَتَيْنِ، وَمَا يَصُدُّهُ ذَلِكَ عَنْ دِينِهِ، وَيُمْشَطُ بِأَمْشَاطِ الْحَدِيدِ، مَا دُونَ لَحْمِهِ مِنْ عَظْمٍ أَوْ عَصَبٍ، وَمَا يَصُدُّهُ ذَلِكَ عَنْ دِينِهِ، وَاللَّهِ لَيُتِمَّنَّ هَذَا الأَمْرَ حَتَّى يَسِيرَ الرَّاكِبُ مِنْ صَنْعَاءَ إِلَى حَضْرَمَوْتَ، لاَ يَخَافُ إِلاَّ اللَّهَ أَوِ الذِّئْبَ عَلَى غَنَمِهِ، وَلَكِنَّكُمْ تَسْتَعْجِلُونَ».

TRANSLATION:

Khabbab ibn al-Aratt رضى الله عنه said: We complained to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ while he was reclining on his cloak in the shade of the Ka'bah. We said: "Will you not ask for help for us? Will you not pray to Allah for us?" He said: **"Among those before you, a man would be seized, a pit dug for him in the earth and he placed in it; then a saw would be brought and put on his head and he would be split in two, yet that would not turn him away from his religion. And he would be combed with iron combs that reached beneath his flesh to the bone or sinew, yet that would not turn him away from his religion. By Allah,**

Allah will surely complete this matter (of religion), until a rider travels from San'a' to Hadramawt fearing none but Allah, or a wolf for his sheep. But you are being hasty."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Muhammad ibn al-Muthanna, from Yahya ibn Sa'id al-Qattan, from Isma'il ibn Abi Khalid, from Qays ibn Abi Hazim, from Khabbab ibn al-Aratt رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Virtues, chapter on the signs of prophethood, Hadith No. 3612.

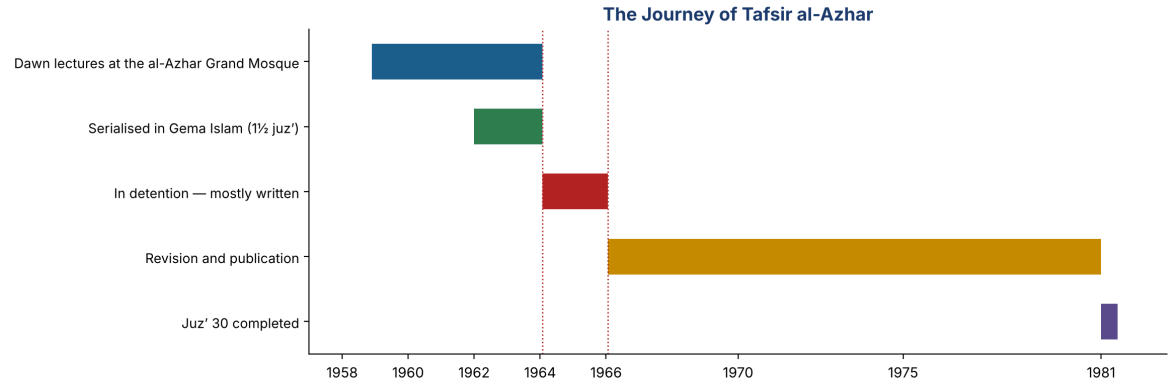
GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:3612

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A TAFSIR FROM BEHIND DETENTION

Hamka used his detention to ***refine and complete*** Tafsir al-Azhar. The HRMARS study says the tafsir was ***"written mostly in prison"***. Only ***juz' 30*** remained unfinished, and he completed it in ***1981***, a few months before his death.



Source: HRMARS, "Methodology of Interpreting Hamka in the Tafsir al-Azhar". Arrested 27 Jan. 1964; released 21 Jan. 1966.

Figure 3: The journey of Tafsir al-Azhar.

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DO NOT WEAKEN

SURAH AL 'IMRAN 3:139

وَلَا تَهِنُوا۟ وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا۟ وَأَنتُمُ ٱلْأَعْلَوْنَ إِن كُنتُم مُّؤْمِنِينَ ﴿١٣٩﴾

So do not weaken and do not grieve, and you will be superior if you are [true] believers?

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/3:139

"So do not weaken and do not grieve". Tafsir Ibn Kathir 3:139.

Prison did not break Hamka's spirit. He did not ***weaken*** or ***grieve***, but filled his time with ***the Qur'an***. This is the meaning of ***"with hardship comes ease"***.

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FEATURES OF TAFSIR AL-AZHAR

Tafsir al-Azhar is written in ***Malay–Indonesian***, combines ***tafsir bi al-ma'thur*** (based on narrations) and ***tafsir bi al-ra'y*** (based on reasoned judgement), and ***connects the verses to the life of Malay society***.

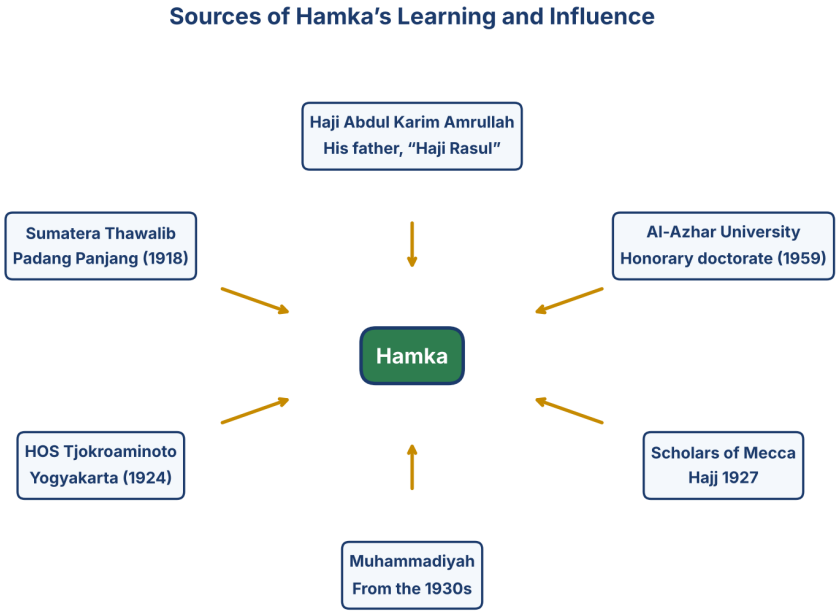
FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
The Malay language	Easy for the Muslims of the archipelago to understand.
Narration and reasoning	Combining Hadith, Companions' views and reason.
Local context	Examples from Malay custom, history and nature.
Literary style	Beautiful language, for its author was a novelist.

Source: HRMARS. https://hrmars.com/papers_submitted/23849/methodology-of-interpreting-hamka-in-the-tafsir-al-azhar.pdf

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LISTENING AND FOLLOWING THE BEST

Allah praises those ***"Who listen to speech and follow the best of it"*** (39:18). Tafsir Ibn Kathir 39:18.



Sources: Wikipedia and HRMARS. Arrows: influences that shaped his thought.

Figure 4: Sources of Hamka's learning and influence.

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HAMKA AND MALAYSIA

Hamka is very well known in ***Malaysia*** and across the archipelago. His books and ***Tafsir al-Azhar*** are widely read, and he received ***an honorary Doctor of Philosophy*** from ***Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in 1974***.

HISTORY NOTE: TIES WITH THE MALAY WORLD

The language Hamka used — ***Malay*** with a Minangkabau flavour — is easily understood by readers in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.

The title ***"Buya"*** (father, in Minangkabau) given to him shows ***the affection*** people had for him.

REFERENCES:

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THE STRONG BELIEVER

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2664

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو بَكْرِ بْنُ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ، وَابْنُ، نُمَيْرٍ قَالاَ حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ إِدْرِيسَ، عَنْ رَبِيعَةَ بْنِ عُثْمَانَ، عَنْ مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ يَحْيَى بْنِ حَبَّانَ، عَنِ الأَعْرَجِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم « الْمُؤْمِنُ الْقَوِيُّ خَيْرٌ وَأَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِ الضَّعِيفِ وَفِي كُلٍّ خَيْرٌ احْرِصْ عَلَى مَا يَنْفَعُكَ وَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللَّهِ وَلاَ تَعْجِزْ وَإِنْ أَصَابَكَ شَىْءٌ فَلاَ تَقُلْ لَوْ أَنِّي فَعَلْتُ كَانَ كَذَا وَكَذَا. وَلَكِنْ قُلْ قَدَرُ اللَّهِ وَمَا شَاءَ فَعَلَ فَإِنَّ لَوْ تَفْتَحُ عَمَلَ الشَّيْطَانِ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"The strong believer is better and more beloved to Allah than the weak believer, and in both there is good. Strive for what benefits you, seek the help of Allah, and do not be weak. If something befalls you, do not say: If only I had done such-and-such, it would have been such-and-such. Rather say: Allah has decreed, and what He wills He does. For "if only" opens the door to the work of Satan."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Abu Bakr ibn Abi Shaybah and Muhammad ibn 'Abdillah ibn Numayr, from 'Abdullah ibn Idris, from Rabi'ah ibn 'Uthman, from Muhammad ibn Yahya ibn Habban, from 'Abd al-Rahman al-A'raj, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Divine Decree (Kitab al-Qadar), chapter on the command to be strong and to abandon weakness, Hadith No. 2664.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim, the second most authentic book of Hadith after Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2664

Hamka is an example of ***the strong believer***: strong in knowledge, strong with the pen, and strong in spirit when tested.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE INDONESIAN ULEMA COUNCIL

In ***1975***, Hamka became ***the first chairman of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI)***, and led it until ***1981***. He was among the founders who signed its founding charter.

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 7138

حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، حَدَّثَنِي مَالِكٌ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ دِينَارٍ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عُمَرَ - رضى الله عنهما - أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « أَلاَ كُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ، وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، فَالإِمَامُ الَّذِي عَلَى النَّاسِ رَاعٍ وَهْوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، وَالرَّجُلُ رَاعٍ عَلَى أَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ وَهْوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، وَالْمَرْأَةُ رَاعِيَةٌ عَلَى أَهْلِ بَيْتِ زَوْجِهَا وَوَلَدِهِ وَهِيَ مَسْئُولَةٌ عَنْهُمْ، وَعَبْدُ الرَّجُلِ رَاعٍ عَلَى مَالِ سَيِّدِهِ وَهْوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْهُ، أَلاَ فَكُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ ».

TRANSLATION:

‘Abdullah ibn ‘Umar رضى الله عنهما narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **“Indeed, each of you is a shepherd, and each of you will be asked about his flock. The ruler over the people is a shepherd and will be asked about his flock. A man is a shepherd over the people of his house and will be asked about them. A woman is a shepherd over her husband’s house and his children and will be asked about them. A servant is a shepherd over his master’s wealth and will be asked about it. Indeed, each of you is a shepherd and each of you will be asked about his flock.”**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Isma‘il ibn Abi Uways, from Malik ibn Anas, from ‘Abdullah ibn Dinar, from ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Umar رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Judgements (Kitab al-Ahkam), Hadith No. 7138. Also narrated as No. 893, and by Muslim (No. 1829).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:7138

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HISTORY NOTE: HIS RESIGNATION IN 1981

In 1981, the MUI issued ***a fatwa on joint Christmas celebrations***, which caused a dispute with the government.

Hamka ***resigned*** as a sign of ***taking responsibility*** for the fatwa — the stance of a scholar who would not let his knowledge bow to pressure.

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UIN Sunan Gunung Djati, "Ulama dan Negara: Kiprah Hamka sebagai Ketua Umum MUI 1975–1981".
https://digilib.uinsgd.ac.id/22144/

Allah says (109:6): ***"For you is your religion, and for me is my religion"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 109:6. This verse teaches ***tolerance*** in social life, while ***guarding the boundaries of faith***.

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ESTABLISHED REPORTS AND POPULAR STORIES

SURAH AL-ISRA' 17:36

وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِۦ عِلْمٌ ۚ إِنَّ ٱلسَّمْعَ وَٱلْبَصَرَ وَٱلْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُو۟لَٰٓئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْـُٔولًا ﴿٣٦﴾

And do not pursue that of which you have no knowledge. Indeed, the hearing, the sight and the heart - about all those [one] will be questioned.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/17:36

"do not pursue that of which you have no knowledge". Tafsir Ibn Kathir 17:36.

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, INTRODUCTION NO. 5 — FROM IMAM MUSLIM'S OWN INTRODUCTION

وَحَدَّثَنَا عُبَيْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ مُعَاذٍ الْعَنْبَرِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبِي ح، وَحَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ الْمُثَنَّى، حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنُ مَهْدِيٍّ، قَالاَ حَدَّثَنَا شُعْبَةُ، عَنْ خُبَيْبِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ، عَنْ حَفْصِ بْنِ عَاصِمٍ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «كَفَى بِالْمَرْءِ كَذِبًا أَنْ يُحَدِّثَ بِكُلِّ مَا سَمِعَ».

TRANSLATION:

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"It is enough of a lie for a person to narrate everything he hears."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from 'Ubaydullah ibn Mu'adh al-'Anbari, from his father Mu'adh ibn Mu'adh; and from Muhammad ibn al-Muthanna, from 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn Mahdi, both from Shu'bah, from Khubayb ibn 'Abd ar-Rahman, from Hafs ibn 'Asim. In the following narration, Imam Muslim narrates it with a connected chain: from Abu Bakr ibn Abi Shaybah, from 'Ali ibn Hafs, from Shu'bah, with the same chain, from Hafs ibn 'Asim, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in the Introduction to Sahih Muslim, Hadith No. 5; the connected narration through Abu Hurairah is in the Introduction, narration 7 (sunnah.com/muslim/introduction/7).

GRADE: SAHIH — Imam Muslim placed it in the Introduction to Sahih Muslim and narrated it with a connected chain through Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:5

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STORIES AND THEIR STATUS

POPULAR STATEMENT	STATUS
He was arrested on 27 January 1964.	Given by HRMARS (12 Ramadan 1383 AH); Sinar Harian gives 27 August 1964; Wikipedia gives 1962.
His al-Azhar honorary doctorate was in 1958.	Planned for 1958; the ceremony was held in March 1959.
Tafsir al-Azhar was written in prison.	Mostly; the lectures began in 1958 and juz' 30 was finished in 1981.
He wrote over 100 books.	Stated by Wikipedia; lists differ between sources.
He led the funeral prayer of Soekarno.	Stated by Sinar Harian, at Soekarno's request.
He refused a salary as MUI chairman.	A popular story in the media; details need checking.

REFLECTION — HONOURING WITHOUT EXAGGERATING

We honour Hamka by ***reading his works***, following his example of ***patience and forgiveness***, and being ***honest*** about differences between sources.

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HIS DEATH AND LEGACY

Hamka died in ***Jakarta on 24 July 1981 CE***, aged 73, after treatment at Pertamina Central Hospital from 18 July. The funeral prayer was held at ***the al-Azhar Grand Mosque***. In ***2011***, he was declared ***a National Hero of Indonesia***.

SURAH AL 'IMRAN 3:185

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَآئِقَةُ ٱلْمَوْتِ ۗ وَإِنَّمَا تُوَفَّوْنَ أُجُورَكُمْ يَوْمَ ٱلْقِيَـٰمَةِ ۖ فَمَن زُحْزِحَ عَنِ
ٱلنَّارِ وَأُدْخِلَ ٱلْجَنَّةَ فَقَدْ فَازَ ۗ وَمَا ٱلْحَيَوٰةُ ٱلدُّنْيَآ إِلَّا مَتَـٰعُ ٱلْغُرُورِ ﴿١٨٥﴾

Every soul will taste death, and you will only be given your [full] compensation on the Day of Resurrection. So he who is drawn away from the Fire and admitted to Paradise has attained [his desire]. And what is the life of this world except the enjoyment of delusion?

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/3:185

"Every soul will taste death". Tafsir Ibn Kathir 3:185.

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HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 1 — THE FIRST HADITH OF AL-ARBA'IN AN-NAWAWIYYAH

حَدَّثَنَا الْحُمَيْدِيُّ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ الزُّبَيْرِ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا سُفْيَانُ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ سَعِيدٍ الْأَنْصَارِيُّ، قَالَ أَخْبَرَنِي مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ التَّيْمِيُّ، أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ عَلْقَمَةَ بْنَ وَقَّاصٍ اللَّيْثِيَّ، يَقُولُ سَمِعْتُ عُمَرَ بْنَ الْخَطَّابِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ عَلَى الْمِنْبَرِ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ، يَقُولُ «إِنَّمَا الْأَعْمَالُ بِالنِّيَّاتِ، وَإِنَّمَا لِكُلِّ امْرِئٍ مَا نَوَى، فَمَنْ كَانَتْ هِجْرَتُهُ إِلَى دُنْيَا يُصِيبُهَا أَوْ إِلَى امْرَأَةٍ يَنْكِحُهَا، فَهِجْرَتُهُ إِلَى مَا هَاجَرَ إِلَيْهِ».

TRANSLATION:

'Alqamah ibn Waqqas al-Laythi said: I heard 'Umar ibn al-Khattab رضى الله عنه say on the pulpit: I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say: **"Actions are only by intentions, and every person will have only what he intended. So whoever emigrated for worldly gain he would attain, or for a woman he would marry, his emigration is for that to which he emigrated."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from al-Humaydi 'Abdullah ibn az-Zubayr, from Sufyan ibn 'Uyaynah, from Yahya ibn Sa'id al-Ansari, from Muhammad ibn Ibrahim at-Taymi, from 'Alqamah ibn Waqqas al-Laythi, from 'Umar ibn al-Khattab رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Beginning of Revelation, Hadith No. 1 (the first Hadith of Sahih al-Bukhari); also narrated by Muslim (No. 1907).

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:1

A LEGACY FOR US

LEGACY	LESSON FOR US
Tafsir al-Azhar	A trial can become an opportunity for good deeds.
His novels	Literature can be a path of da'wah.
Pedoman Masyarakat	Media to educate the Ummah.
His forgiveness	Repaying hostility with kindness.
His courage	Scholars speak the truth with wisdom.

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LESSONS AND CONCLUSION

LESSONS FROM THIS EBOOK

First: With hardship comes ease (94:5–6; Sahih Muslim 2999).

Second: A father is the first educator (31:13; Sahih al-Bukhari 71).

Third: Seek knowledge even far from home (Sahih Muslim 2699).

Fourth: Call to good as a community (3:104).

Fifth: A good word is like a good tree (14:24).

Sixth: Literature with wisdom is da'wah (26:227; Sahih al-Bukhari 6145).

Seventh: Stories carry lessons (12:111).

Eighth: Uphold justice and honesty (4:135; Sahih al-Bukhari 6094).

Ninth: Learn and teach the Qur'an every day (Sahih al-Bukhari 5027).

Tenth: Be patient when wronged (2:153; 3:139; Sahih al-Bukhari 3612).

Eleventh: A leader is answerable for his trust (Sahih al-Bukhari 7138).

Twelfth: Be honest about differences between sources (17:36).

CONCLUSION

Hamka went into detention as a preacher, and came out with ***a tafsir***. The next book of **Tracing the Scholars of Islam**, in sha' Allah, will tell the story of ***Shaykh Tahir Jalaluddin***, the Minangkabau scholar and Kaum Muda reformer like Hamka's father, who founded the ***al-Imam*** magazine in Singapore. And Allah knows best.

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GLOSSARY AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

GLOSSARY

TERM	MEANING
Buya	A title of respect for Minangkabau scholars (father).
Islah	Reform; returning to the Qur'an and Sunnah.
Kaum Muda	The reformist group in Minangkabau.
Merantau	Leaving one's village to seek knowledge or a living.
Tafsir bi al-ma'thur	Tafsir based on narrations.
Tafsir bi al-ra'y	Tafsir based on disciplined reasoning.
MUI	The Indonesian Ulema Council (1975).
Pen name	A name used by a writer.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How is verse 94:5–6 reflected in Hamka's time in prison?

2. How did his father, Haji Rasul, influence Hamka?

3. Why did Hamka write novels as well as religious books?

4. What features of Tafsir al-Azhar make it accessible to Malay readers?

5. Why must the date of Hamka's arrest be stated with care?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Read Tafsir al-Azhar on a short surah, and note one example from Malay life that Hamka mentions.

Activity 2: Write a short story that carries a lesson from a verse of the Qur'an.

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HADITH

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Sahih Muslim 2664, 2674, 2699, 2999, and Introduction 5. https://sunnah.com/muslim

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SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:261

مَّثَلُ ٱلَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ أَمۡوَٰلَهُمۡ فِي سَبِيلِ ٱللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ حَبَّةٍ أَنۢبَتَتۡ سَبۡعَ سَنَابِلَ فِي كُلِّ سُنۢبُلَةٖ مِّاْئَةُ حَبَّةٖۗ وَٱللَّهُ يُضَٰعِفُ لِمَن يَشَآءُۚ وَٱللَّهُ وَٰسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ٢٦١

The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:261

SURAH SABA' 34:39

قُلۡ إِنَّ رَبِّي يَبۡسُطُ ٱلرِّزۡقَ لِمَن يَشَآءُ مِنۡ عِبَادِهِۦ وَيَقۡدِرُ لَهُۥۚ وَمَآ أَنفَقۡتُم مِّن شَيۡءٖ فَهُوَ يُخۡلِفُهُۥۖ وَهُوَ خَيۡرُ ٱلرَّٰزِقِينَ ٣٩

Say, "Indeed, my Lord extends provision for whom He wills of His servants and restricts [it] for him. But whatever thing you spend [in His cause] - He will compensate it; and He is the best of providers."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/34:39

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2588

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، وَابْنُ، حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - وَهُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « مَا نَقَصَتْ صَدَقَةٌ مِنْ مَالٍ وَمَا زَادَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا بِعَفْوٍ إِلاَّ عِزًّا وَمَا تَوَاضَعَ أَحَدٌ لِلَّهِ إِلاَّ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Charity does not decrease wealth.

Allah does not increase a servant who forgives except in honour. And no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah except that Allah raises him in rank."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضي الله عنه .

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Virtue, Good Manners and Joining the Ties of Kinship (Kitab al-Birr wa al-Silah wa al-Adab), chapter on the encouragement of forgiveness and humility, Hadith No. 2588.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2588

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1631

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، - يَعْنِي ابْنَ سَعِيدٍ - وَابْنُ حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - هُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « إِذَا مَاتَ الإِنْسَانُ انْقَطَعَ عَنْهُ عَمَلُهُ إِلاَّ مِنْ ثَلاَثَةٍ إِلاَّ مِنْ صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضي الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "When a person dies, his deeds come to an end except for three: an ongoing charity, knowledge that is benefited from, or a righteous child who prays for him."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضي الله عنه .

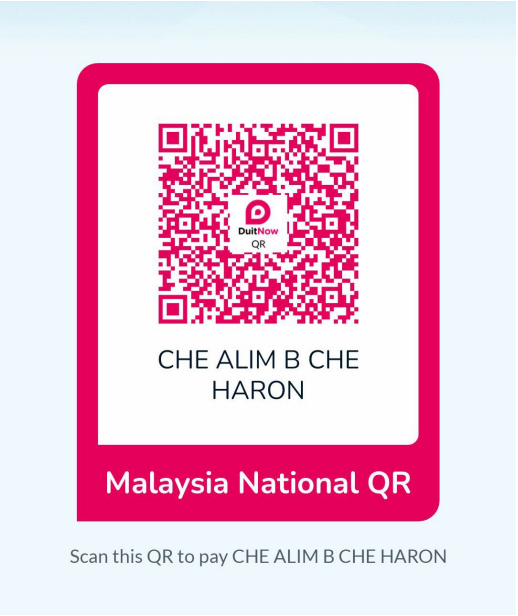
REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Wills (Kitab al-Wasiyyah), chapter on the reward that reaches a person after his death, Hadith No. 1631.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1631

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