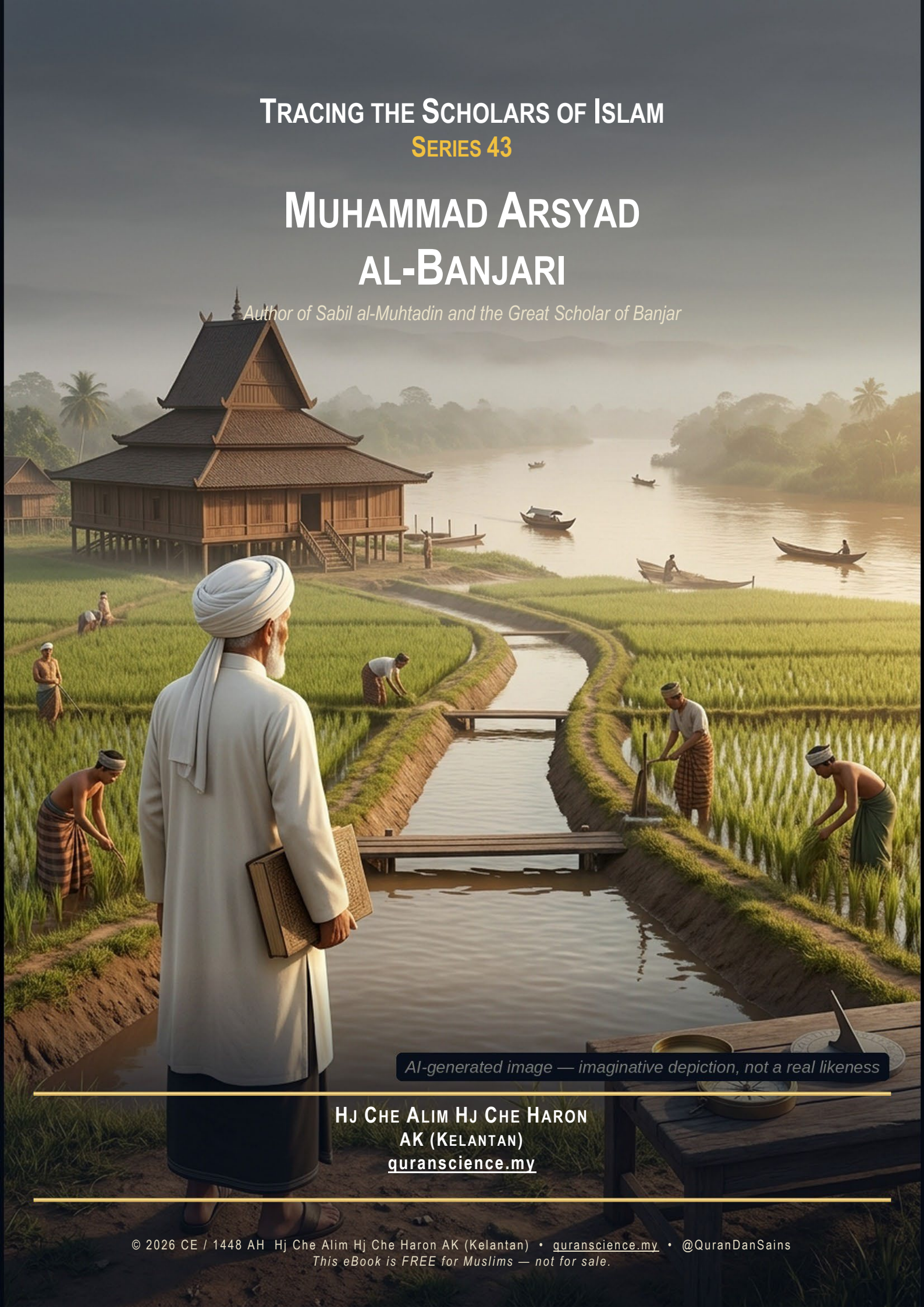
TRACING THE SCHOLARS OF ISLAM

SERIES 43

MUHAMMAD ARSYAD AL-BANJARI

Author of Sabil al-Muhtadin and the Great Scholar of Banjar



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

TRACING THE SCHOLARS OF ISLAM

SERIES 43

MUHAMMAD ARSYAD AL-BANJARI

Author of Sabil al-Muhtadin and the Great Scholar of Banjar

قُلْ أَمَّنْ هُوَ قَٰنِتٌ ءَانَآءَ ٱلَّيْلِ سَاجِدًا وَقَآئِمًا يَحْذَرُ ٱلْءَاخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُوا۟ رَحْمَةَ رَبِّهِۦ ۗ
قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِى ٱلَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَٱلَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ۗ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُو۟لُوا۟ ٱلْأَلْبَٰبِ

"Is one who is devoutly obedient during periods of the night, prostrating and standing [in prayer], fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the mercy of his Lord, [like one who does not]? Say, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" Only they will remember [who are] people of understanding."

SURAH AZ-ZUMAR 39:9

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise is due to Allah, who raises in rank those who have knowledge. 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-third book of Tracing the Scholars of Islam tells the story of Shaykh Muhammad Arsyad al-Banjari, a son of Banjar who studied in Mecca and Medina for more than thirty years, then returned to build a centre of learning, dig a canal for farmers, correct the qiblah, and write Sabil al-Muhtadin. May his story teach us that religious knowledge and service to the community go hand in hand.

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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 Shaykh Muhammad Arsyad al-Banjari. This label is also printed on the cover. He is shown ***from behind and to the side***, in a white turban and robe, holding a **book** beside a straight **canal**.

On both sides of the canal stretch green **rice fields**, with farmers at work — a reminder of ***the canal he dug together with the people of Banjar*** for agriculture.

On a wooden table lie a **compass** and a **sundial** — symbols of ***his correction of the qiblah*** in Batavia in 1772 CE. In the background stand a **Banjar wooden mosque** on tall stilts and a **river** with jukung boats in the morning mist.

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MUHAMMAD ARSYAD AL-BANJARI

The forty-third book of **Tracing the Scholars of Islam** tells the story of ***Shaykh Muhammad Arsyad ibn 'Abdullah al-Banjari*** (1710–1812 CE), the great scholar of ***Banjar***, South Kalimantan — also known as ***Datu Kalampayan***.

He studied in ***Mecca and Medina*** for more than thirty years, then returned to build ***a centre of learning***, dig ***a canal*** for farmers, ***correct the qiblah*** of mosques in Batavia, and write the jurisprudence book ***Sabil al-Muhtadin***, read throughout the Malay world.

This eBook explains ***the verses on knowledge***, the background of ***the Sultanate of Banjar***, his studies in the Haramain, ***astronomy and the qiblah***, ***agriculture***, ***the Hijri calendar***, and his books.

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.*

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ARE THOSE WHO KNOW EQUAL?

SURAH AZ-ZUMAR 39:9

أَمَّنْ هُوَ قَٰنِتٌ ءَانَآءَ ٱلَّيْلِ سَاجِدًا وَقَآئِمًا يَحْذَرُ ٱلْءَاخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُوا۟ رَحْمَةَ رَبِّهِۦ ۗ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِى ٱلَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَٱلَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ۗ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُو۟لُوا۟ ٱلْأَلْبَٰبِ ﴿٩﴾

Is one who is devoutly obedient during periods of the night, prostrating and standing [in prayer], fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the mercy of his Lord, [like one who does not]? Say, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" Only they will remember [who are] people of understanding.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/39:9

Allah asks: ***"Are those who know equal to those who do not know?"*** Tafsir Ibn Kathir 39:9.

This verse was the spirit of al-Banjari's life: he left the palace and his homeland for ***knowledge***, then returned to ***teach*** his people.

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ALLAH RAISES THOSE GIVEN KNOWLEDGE

SURAH AL-MUJADILAH 58:11

يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوٓاْ إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمۡ تَفَسَّحُواْ فِي ٱلۡمَجَٰلِسِ فَٱفۡسَحُواْ يَفۡسَحِ ٱللَّهُ لَكُمۡۖ وَإِذَا قِيلَ ٱنشُزُواْ فَٱنشُزُواْ يَرۡفَعِ ٱللَّهُ ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ مِنكُمۡ وَٱلَّذِينَ أُوتُواْ ٱلۡعِلۡمَ دَرَجَٰتٖۚ وَٱللَّهُ بِمَا تَعۡمَلُونَ خَبِيرٞ ١١

O you who have believed, when you are told, "Space yourselves" in assemblies, then make space; Allah will make space for you. And when you are told, "Arise," then arise; Allah will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees. And Allah is Acquainted with what you do.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/58:11

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

QUALITIES OF THE LEARNED	EXAMPLE IN AL-BANJARI'S LIFE
Striving to seek knowledge	More than thirty years of study in the Haramain.
Teaching others	Building a centre of learning on his return to Banjar.
Writing knowledge	Sabil al-Muhtadin and other books.
Knowledge for the community	An irrigation canal and the qiblah correction.

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SEEKING KNOWLEDGE FAR FROM HOME

SURAH AT-TAWBAH 9:122

۞ وَمَا كَانَ ٱلْمُؤْمِنُونَ لِيَنفِرُوا۟ كَآفَّةً ۚ فَلَوْلَا نَفَرَ مِن كُلِّ فِرْقَةٍ مِّنْهُمْ طَآئِفَةٌ
لِّيَتَفَقَّهُوا۟ فِى ٱلدِّينِ وَلِيُنذِرُوا۟ قَوْمَهُمْ إِذَا رَجَعُوٓا۟ إِلَيْهِمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَحْذَرُونَ ﴿١٢٢﴾

And it is not for the believers to go forth [to battle] all at once. For there should separate from every division of them a group [remaining] to obtain understanding in the religion and warn their people when they return to them that they might be cautious.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/9:122

Allah commands that a group remain ***"to obtain understanding in the religion and warn their people when they return to them"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 9:122.

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

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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

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Every step in seeking knowledge is ***a path to Paradise***. The voyage from Banjar to Mecca in the 18th century CE took ***months***, yet the scholars of the region still made it.

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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

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Understanding of the religion is ***a sign of the good*** Allah wills for a person. Al-Banjari did not merely memorise; he ***understood*** and ***explained*** the rulings so that the people of Banjar could practise them easily.

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KNOWLEDGE IS TAKEN AWAY BY THE DEATH OF SCHOLARS

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 100 (MUTTAFAQ ‘ALAIH)

حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ بْنُ أَبِي أُوَيْسٍ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنِي مَالِكٌ، عَنْ هِشَامِ بْنِ عُرْوَةَ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرِو بْنِ الْعَاصِ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَقُولُ «إِنَّ اللَّهَ لاَ يَقْبِضُ الْعِلْمَ انْتِزَاعًا، يَنْتَزِعُهُ مِنَ الْعِبَادِ، وَلَكِنْ يَقْبِضُ الْعِلْمَ بِقَبْضِ الْعُلَمَاءِ، حَتَّى إِذَا لَمْ يُبْقِ عَالِمًا، اتَّخَذَ النَّاسُ رُءُوسًا جُهَّالاً فَسُئِلُوا، فَأَفْتَوْا بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ، فَضَلُّوا وَأَضَلُّوا». قَالَ الْفِرَبْرِيُّ حَدَّثَنَا عَبَّاسٌ قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا قُتَيْبَةُ حَدَّثَنَا جَرِيرٌ عَنْ هِشَامٍ نَحْوَهُ.

TRANSLATION:

‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr ibn al-‘As رضى الله عنهما said: I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say: **“Allah does not take away knowledge by snatching it from His servants, but He takes away knowledge by taking away the scholars, until, when no scholar remains, people take ignorant leaders. They are asked and they give rulings without knowledge; so they go astray and lead others astray.”**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Isma‘il ibn Abi Uways, from Imam Malik, from Hisham ibn ‘Urwah, from his father, ‘Urwah ibn az-Zubayr, from ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr ibn al-‘As رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Knowledge, Hadith No. 100. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 2673).

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:100

That is why every land needs ***local scholars*** who teach in the language of their people. Al-Banjari’s return met this need for the people of Banjar.

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BACKGROUND: THE SULTANATE OF BANJAR

Al-Banjari was born in ***the Sultanate of Banjar***, an Islamic kingdom in the south of Borneo (today's South Kalimantan), centred on ***Banjarmasin*** and ***Martapura***.

HISTORY NOTE: THE SULTANATE OF BANJAR

In ***1526 CE***, ***Raden Samudra*** embraced Islam and was crowned ***Sultan Suriansyah***, with the help of ***the Demak Sultanate*** — the kingdom covered in Book 41.

Banjar became a major producer and trader of ***pepper*** in the early 17th century CE. Its capital moved between ***Kuin, Banjarmasin, Martapura*** and ***Kayu Tangi***.

In al-Banjari's time, Banjar was ruled by ***Sultan Tahmidullah II*** (1761–1801 CE). The sultanate was finally ***dissolved by the Dutch in 1860 CE***.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Sultanate of Banjar". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultanate_of_Banjar

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BANJAR'S LINKS WITH THE MALAY WORLD

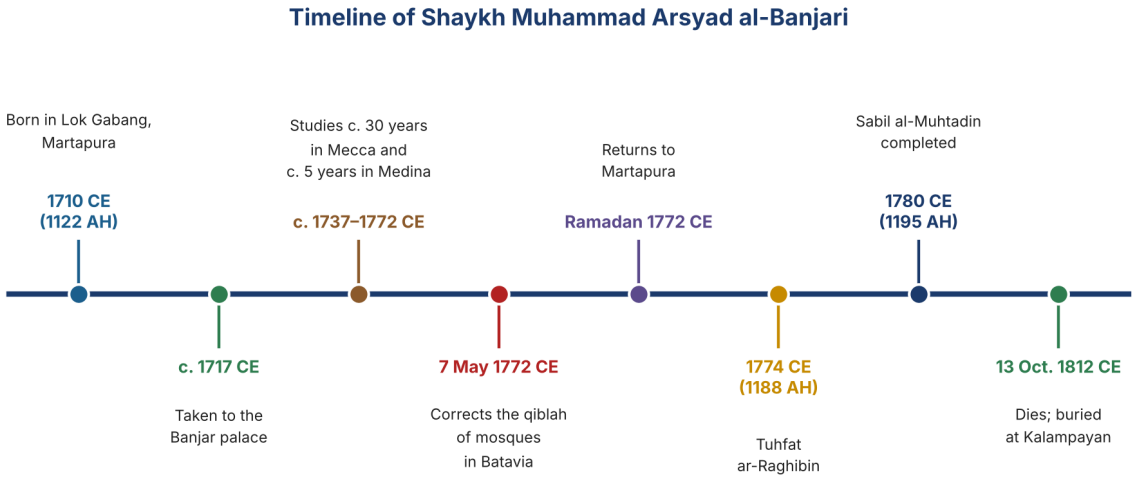
LINK	DETAILS
Demak, Java	Helped the conversion and founding of the Sultanate of Banjar (1526 CE).
Pepper trade	Connected Banjar with Asian and European traders.
Mecca and Medina	Centres of study for Banjar scholars such as al-Banjari.
The Dutch (VOC)	Rivalry and trade treaties, until Banjar was dissolved (1860 CE).

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WHO WAS MUHAMMAD ARSYAD AL-BANJARI?

He was born in the village of ***Lok Gabang***, near ***Martapura***, on ***15 Safar 1122 AH (19 March 1710 CE)***, the eldest son of ***'Abdullah*** and ***Siti Aminah***.

According to a famous account, when he was ***seven years old***, the Sultan of Banjar saw a ***painting*** he had made and took him to the ***palace*** to be educated. The Sultan later sent him to ***Mecca*** to seek knowledge.



Sources: NU Online, UINSU and UIN Alauddin journals. Dates marked c. are estimates.

Figure 1: Timeline of Shaykh Muhammad Arsyad al-Banjari.

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THIRTY YEARS IN THE HARAMAIN

Al-Banjari studied about ***30 years in Mecca*** and ***5 years in Medina***. Among his teachers were ***Shaykh ‘Ata’illah ibn Ahmad al-Misri***, ***Shaykh Muhammad ibn Sulaiman al-Kurdi***, and his Sufi teacher ***Shaykh Muhammad ibn ‘Abd al-Karim as-Samman***.

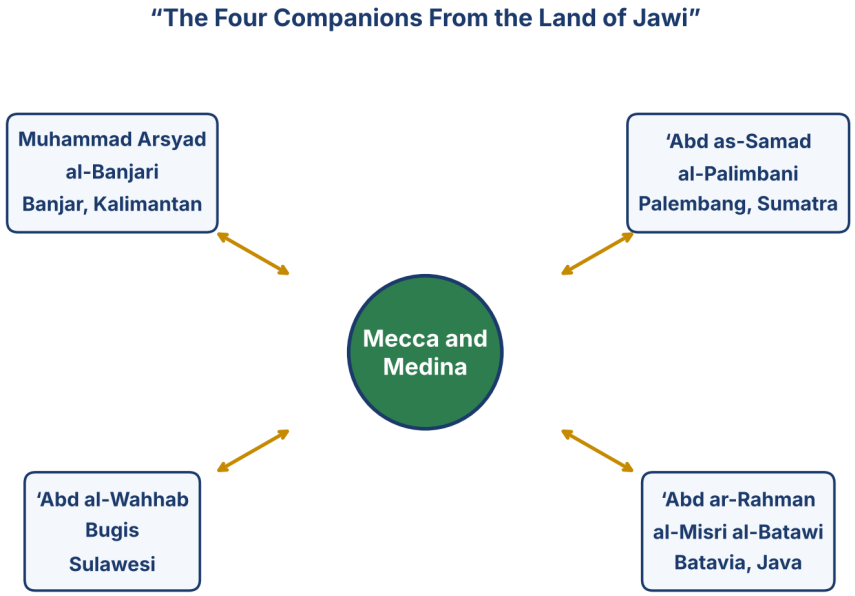


Figure 2: “The four companions from the land of Jawi” in the Haramain.

He was close to ***‘Abd as-Samad al-Palimbani***, ***‘Abd ar-Rahman al-Misri al-Batawi*** and ***‘Abd al-Wahhab Bugis*** — who later became ***his son-in-law***. They were known as ***the four companions from the land of Jawi***.

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CORRECTING THE QIBLAH IN BATAVIA

On the way home in ***1772 CE***, al-Banjari and his companions stopped in ***Batavia*** (Jakarta). He found that the ***mihrabs*** of several mosques ***did not face the Ka'bah accurately***.

HISTORY NOTE: THE QIBLAH OF THE JEMBATAN LIMA MOSQUE

On ***4 Safar 1186 AH (7 May 1772 CE)***, he pointed out the qiblah of ***Masjid Jami' Jembatan Lima***. After his explanation, the congregation agreed to change it. ***Masjid Luar Batang*** and ***Masjid Pekojan*** followed.

He proposed turning the mihrab ***25° to the right*** (north). This caused ***an uproar***, and one scholar wrote a letter of rebuttal. But ***his argument was eventually accepted*** and the dispute ended peacefully. He recorded it in the treatise ***Mas'alat al-Qiblah fi al-Batawi*** (1772 CE).

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NU Online, "Meluruskan Arah Kiblat". https://www.nu.or.id/fragmen/meluruskan-arah-kiblat-dy5pf
Elfalaky Journal, UIN Alauddin. https://journal.uin-alauddin.ac.id/index.php/elfalaky/article/view/39539

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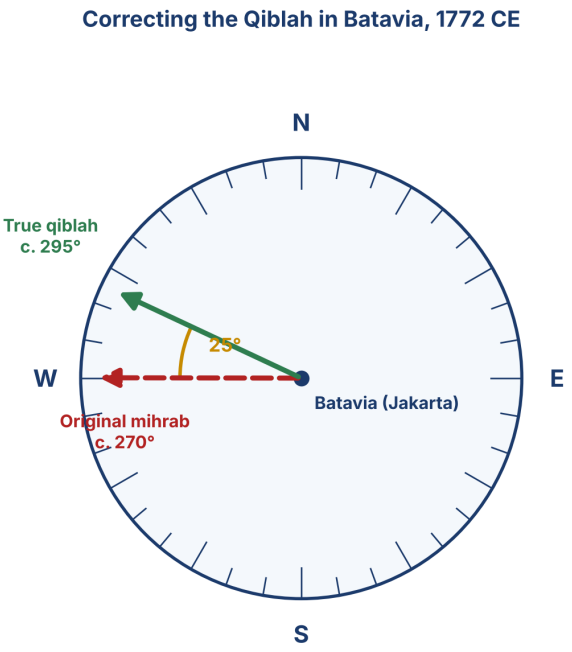


Figure 3: Correcting the qiblah in Batavia (the original direction is an estimate).

The true qiblah from Jakarta, calculated with ***the great-circle formula***, is about ***295°*** from true north. The ***astronomy*** he learned in Mecca enabled al-Banjari to make this calculation.

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TURN YOUR FACE TOWARD AL-MASJID AL-HARAM

SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:144

قَدْ نَرَىٰ تَقَلُّبَ وَجْهِكَ فِي ٱلسَّمَآءِ ۖ فَلَنُوَلِّيَنَّكَ قِبْلَةً تَرْضَىٰهَا ۚ فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ
شَطْرَ ٱلْمَسْجِدِ ٱلْحَرَامِ ۚ وَحَيْثُ مَا كُنتُمْ فَوَلُّوا۟ وُجُوهَكُمْ شَطْرَهُۥ ۗ وَإِنَّ ٱلَّذِينَ
أُوتُوا۟ ٱلْكِتَٰبَ لَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهُ ٱلْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّهِمْ ۗ وَمَا ٱللَّهُ بِغَٰفِلٍ عَمَّا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٤٤﴾

We have certainly seen the turning of your face, [O Muhammad], toward the heaven, and We will surely turn you to a qiblah with which you will be pleased. So turn your face toward al-Masjid al-Haram. And wherever you [believers] are, turn your faces toward it [in prayer]. Indeed, those who have been given the Scripture well know that it is the truth from their Lord. And Allah is not unaware of what they do.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:144

Allah commands: ***"So turn your face toward al-Masjid al-Haram"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 2:144.

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SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:150

وَمِنْ حَيْثُ خَرَجْتَ فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ ٱلْمَسْجِدِ ٱلْحَرَامِ ۚ وَحَيْثُ مَا كُنتُمْ
فَوَلُّوا۟ وُجُوهَكُمْ شَطْرَهُۥ لِئَلَّا يَكُونَ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَيْكُمْ حُجَّةٌ إِلَّا ٱلَّذِينَ
ظَلَمُوا۟ مِنْهُمْ فَلَا تَخْشَوْهُمْ وَٱخْشَوْنِى وَلِأُتِمَّ نِعْمَتِى عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ
تَهْتَدُونَ ﴿١٥٠﴾

And from wherever you go out [for prayer], turn your face toward al-Masjid al-Haram. And wherever you [believers] may be, turn your faces toward it in order that the people will not have any argument against you, except for those of them who commit wrong; so fear them not but fear Me. And [it is] so I may complete My favor upon you and that you may be guided.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:150

The command is repeated: ***"And from wherever you go out [for prayer], turn your face toward al-Masjid al-Haram"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 2:150.

CITY	QIBLAH DIRECTION (APPROXIMATE, CALCULATED)
Jakarta	About 295° from true north; distance about 7,910 km.
Banjarmasin	About 293° from true north; distance about 8,570 km.
Banda Aceh	About 292° from true north; distance about 6,220 km.
Kuala Lumpur	About 292.5° from true north; distance about 6,970 km.

These values were calculated from the coordinates of each city and the Ka'bah using the great-circle formula. For the actual determination, refer to the local religious authority.

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RETURNING TO BUILD A CENTRE OF LEARNING

In ***Ramadan 1186 AH (1772 CE)***, al-Banjari returned to ***Martapura***, then the capital of the Sultanate of Banjar. He opened ***a centre of learning*** that produced many scholars, and the area where he lived became known as ***Dalam Pagar***.

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

The best of people are those who ***learn and teach the Qur’an***. Al-Banjari also left ***a hand-written mushaf of the Qur’an*** — a sign of his love for the Book of Allah.

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A CANAL FOR THE FARMERS

Al-Banjari did not only teach in the mosque. Together with the people of Banjar, he dug ***an irrigation canal*** to increase ***farm yields***. The canal is now known as ***Sungai Datuk***.

SURAH AL-WAQI'AH 56:63–64

أَفَرَءَيْتُم مَّا تَحْرُثُونَ ﴿٦٣﴾

And have you seen that [seed] which you sow.

ءَأَنتُمْ تَزْرَعُونَهُۥٓ أَمْ نَحْنُ ٱلزَّٰرِعُونَ ﴿٦٤﴾

Is it you who makes it grow, or are We the grower?

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/56:63-64

Allah asks: ***"Is it you who makes it grow, or are We the grower?"*** Farmers strive, but ***Allah makes it grow***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 56:63.

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LET MANKIND LOOK AT HIS FOOD

SURAH 'ABASA 80:24–27

فَلْيَنظُرِ ٱلْإِنسَٰنُ إِلَىٰ طَعَامِهِۦٓ ﴿٢٤﴾

Then let mankind look at his food.

أَنَّا صَبَبْنَا ٱلْمَآءَ صَبًّا ﴿٢٥﴾

How We poured down water in torrents?

ثُمَّ شَقَقْنَا ٱلْأَرْضَ شَقًّا ﴿٢٦﴾

Then We broke open the earth, splitting [it with sprouts].

فَأَنۢبَتْنَا فِيهَا حَبًّا ﴿٢٧﴾

And caused to grow within it grain.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/80:24-27

Allah tells mankind ***"look at his food"***: the rain, the earth split open, and then ***"And caused to grow within it grain"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 80:24.

According to the FAO, ***rice is a staple food for more than half of the world's population***, and makes up about ***20%*** of the global food supply. https://news.un.org/en/story/2003/10/84272-un-declares-2004-international-year-rice

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DEVELOPING THE EARTH WITH EXCELLENCE

SURAH HUD 11:61

۞ وَإِلَىٰ ثَمُودَ أَخَاهُمْ صَٰلِحًا ۚ قَالَ يَٰقَوْمِ ٱعْبُدُوا۟ ٱللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَٰهٍ غَيْرُهُۥ ۖ هُوَ أَنشَأَكُم مِّنَ ٱلْأَرْضِ وَٱسْتَعْمَرَكُمْ فِيهَا فَٱسْتَغْفِرُوهُ ثُمَّ تُوبُوٓا۟ إِلَيْهِ ۚ إِنَّ رَبِّى قَرِيبٌ مُّجِيبٌ ﴿٦١﴾

And to Thamud [We sent] their brother Salih. He said, "O my people, worship Allah; you have no deity other than Him. He has produced you from the earth and settled you in it, so ask forgiveness of Him and then repent to Him. Indeed, my Lord is near and responsive."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/11:61

Prophet Salih عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ told his people that Allah ***"He has produced you from the earth and settled you in it"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 11:61.

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1955

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو بَكْرِ بْنُ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ، حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ ابْنُ عُلَيَّةَ، عَنْ خَالِدٍ الْحَذَّاءِ، عَنْ أَبِي قِلاَبَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي الأَشْعَثِ، عَنْ شَدَّادِ بْنِ أَوْسٍ، قَالَ ثِنْتَانِ حَفِظْتُهُمَا عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَتَبَ الإِحْسَانَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَىْءٍ فَإِذَا قَتَلْتُمْ فَأَحْسِنُوا الْقِتْلَةَ وَإِذَا ذَبَحْتُمْ فَأَحْسِنُوا الذِّبْحَ وَلْيُحِدَّ أَحَدُكُمْ شَفْرَتَهُ فَلْيُرِحْ ذَبِيحَتَهُ».

TRANSLATION:

Shaddad ibn Aws رضى الله عنه said: Two things I memorised from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ; he said: **"Indeed Allah has prescribed excellence (ihsan) in everything.** So when you kill (where it is permitted), kill well; and when you slaughter, slaughter well. Let each of you sharpen his blade and spare his animal suffering."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Abu Bakr ibn Abi Shaybah, from Isma'il ibn 'Ulayyah, from Khalid al-Hadhdha', from Abu Qilabah, from Abu al-Ash'ath as-San'ani, from Shaddad ibn Aws رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Hunting and Slaughter, Hadith No. 1955.

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

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1955a

THE WORK OF ONE'S OWN HANDS

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 2072

حَدَّثَنَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ بْنُ مُوسَى، أَخْبَرَنَا عِيسَى، عَنْ ثَوْرٍ، عَنْ خَالِدِ بْنِ مَعْدَانَ، عَنِ الْمِقْدَامِ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « مَا أَكَلَ أَحَدٌ طَعَامًا قَطُّ خَيْرًا مِنْ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ مِنْ عَمَلِ يَدِهِ، وَإِنَّ نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ دَاوُدَ ـ عَلَيْهِ السَّلاَمُ ـ كَانَ يَأْكُلُ مِنْ عَمَلِ يَدِهِ ».

TRANSLATION:

Al-Miqdam رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"No one has ever eaten food better than what he eats from the work of his own hands. And the Prophet of Allah David عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ used to eat from the work of his own hands."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Ibrahim ibn Musa, from 'Isa ibn Yunus, from Thawr ibn Yazid, from Khalid ibn Ma'dan, from al-Miqdam ibn Ma'dikarib رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Sales (Kitab al-Buyu'), chapter on a man's earning and the work of his hands, Hadith No. 2072.

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:2072

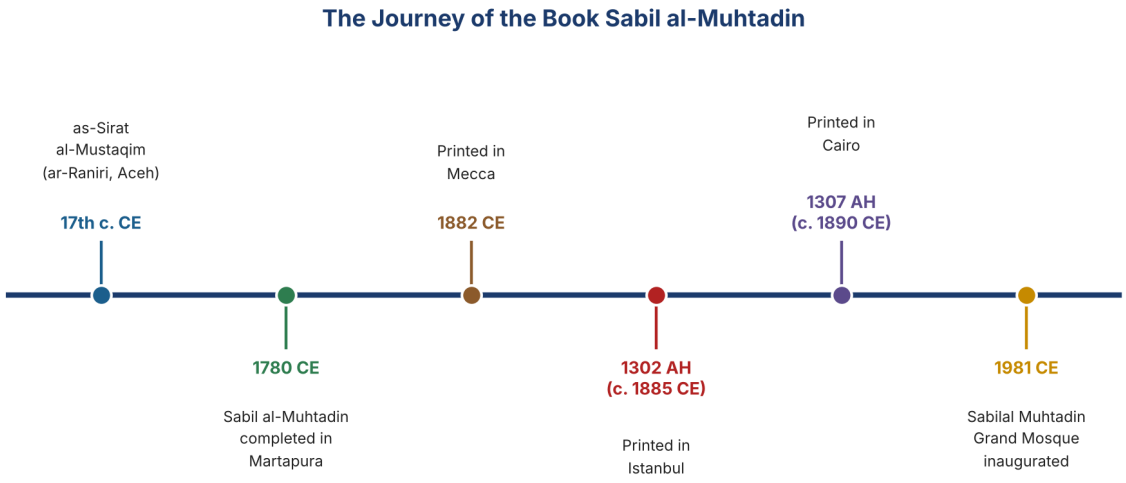
Digging a canal, planting rice and working the land are ***worship*** when done with ***excellence*** and the right intention. Al-Banjari showed that scholars also ***go down to the rice fields*** with the people.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY	BENEFIT
Irrigation canal	Water for the fields; higher rice yields.
Centre of learning	Produced scholars and religious teachers.
Qiblah correction	Congregations praying in the correct direction.

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SABIL AL-MUHTADIN

Al-Banjari's masterpiece is ***Sabil al-Muhtadin li at-Tafaqquh fi Amr ad-Din*** ("The Path of the Guided for Understanding the Affairs of the Religion") — a ***Shafi'i jurisprudence*** book in Malay, in ***two volumes***.



Sources: UINSU journal and Wikipedia, "Grand Mosque of Sabilal Muhtadin".

Figure 4: The journey of the book Sabil al-Muhtadin.

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HISTORY NOTE: WRITTEN ON THE SULTAN'S ADVICE

The book was written on ***the advice of Sultan Tahmidullah***, who also loved to study religion. It was completed on ***Sunday, 27 Rabi' al-Akhir 1195 AH (1780 CE)***.

It was printed in ***Mecca (1882 CE)*** through the efforts of a shaykh from Patani, then in ***Istanbul (1302 AH)*** and ***Cairo (1307 AH)***. It became a major reference in jurisprudence in Southeast Asia.

REFERENCES:

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NU Online, "Ulama Yang Membangun Saluran Irigasi". https://nu.or.id/tokoh/ulama-yang-membangun-saluran-irigasi-fEg0T

CONTENTS OF THE BOOK

The book explains ***purification, prayer, zakat, fasting, Hajj*** and ***lawful food***, with evidence from the Qur'an and Hadith and the views of Shafi'i scholars.

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FROM AS-SIRAT AL-MUSTAQIM TO SABIL AL-MUHTADIN

Book 42 told the story of ***Nuruddin ar-Raniri*** and his book ***as-Sirat al-Mustaqim***. More than a century later, al-Banjari ***explained and expanded*** that book in Sabil al-Muhtadin.

ITEM	AS-SIRAT AL-MUSTAQIM / SABIL AL-MUHTADIN
Author	Nuruddin ar-Raniri (Aceh) / Muhammad Arsyad al-Banjari (Banjar).
Era	17th century CE / 1780 CE.
School	Shafi'i / Shafi'i.
Language	Malay in Jawi script / Malay in Jawi script.
Link	Sabil al-Muhtadin explains and completes as-Sirat al-Mustaqim.

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A CONTINUOUS CHAIN OF KNOWLEDGE

This is the beauty of ***the Jawi book tradition***: a scholar in Aceh writes, and a scholar in Banjar ***continues*** — though they never met. Written knowledge ***lives on*** beyond generations and borders.

Today, both books are still ***references*** in pondok, surau and libraries across the Malay world.

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THE NEW MOON AND THE HIJRI CALENDAR

SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:189

۞يَسۡـَٔلُونَكَ عَنِ ٱلۡأَهِلَّةِۖ قُلۡ هِيَ مَوَٰقِيتُ لِلنَّاسِ وَٱلۡحَجِّۗ وَلَيۡسَ ٱلۡبِرُّ بِأَن تَأۡتُواْ ٱلۡبُيُوتَ مِن ظُهُورِهَا وَلَٰكِنَّ ٱلۡبِرَّ مَنِ ٱتَّقَىٰۗ وَأۡتُواْ ٱلۡبُيُوتَ مِنۡ أَبۡوَٰبِهَاۚ وَٱتَّقُواْ ٱللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمۡ تُفۡلِحُونَ ١٨٩

They ask you, [O Muhammad], about the new moons. Say, "They are measurements of time for the people and for Hajj." And it is not righteousness to enter houses from the back, but righteousness is [in] one who fears Allah. And enter houses from their doors. And fear Allah that you may succeed.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:189

"They are measurements of time for the people and for Hajj". Tafsir Ibn Kathir 2:189.

SURAH AT-TAWBAH 9:36

إِنَّ عِدَّةَ ٱلشُّهُورِ عِندَ ٱللَّهِ ٱثۡنَا عَشَرَ شَهۡرٗا فِي كِتَٰبِ ٱللَّهِ يَوۡمَ خَلَقَ ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ وَٱلۡأَرۡضَ مِنۡهَآ أَرۡبَعَةٌ حُرُمٞۚ ذَٰلِكَ ٱلدِّينُ ٱلۡقَيِّمُۚ فَلَا تَظۡلِمُواْ فِيهِنَّ أَنفُسَكُمۡۚ وَقَٰتِلُواْ ٱلۡمُشۡرِكِينَ كَآفَّةٗ كَمَا يُقَٰتِلُونَكُمۡ كَآفَّةٗۚ وَٱعۡلَمُوٓاْ أَنَّ ٱللَّهَ مَعَ ٱلۡمُتَّقِينَ ٣٦

Indeed, the number of months with Allah is twelve [lunar] months in the register of Allah [from] the day He created the heavens and the earth; of these, four are sacred. That is the correct religion, so do not wrong yourselves during them. And fight against the disbelievers collectively as they fight against you collectively. And know that Allah is with the righteous [who fear Him].

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/9:36

"Indeed, the number of months with Allah is twelve [lunar] months". Tafsir Ibn Kathir 9:36.

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 1909 (MUTTAFAQ 'ALAYH)

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حَدَّثَنَا آدَمُ، حَدَّثَنَا شُعْبَةُ، حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ زِيَادٍ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ أَبَا هُرَيْرَةَ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ يَقُولُ قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صلى الله عليه وسلم أَوْ قَالَ قَالَ أَبُو الْقَاسِمِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «صُومُوا لِرُؤْيَتِهِ، وَأَفْطِرُوا لِرُؤْيَتِهِ، فَإِنْ غُبِّيَ عَلَيْكُمْ فَأَكْمِلُوا عِدَّةَ شَعْبَانَ ثَلاَثِينَ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه said: The Prophet ﷺ — or Abu al-Qasim ﷺ — said: **"Fast when you see it (the new crescent), and break your fast when you see it. If it is hidden from you, complete the count of Sha'ban as thirty days."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Adam (ibn Abi Iyas), from Shu'bah, from Muhammad ibn Ziyad, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Fasting, Hadith No. 1909. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 1081).

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:1909

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 1913

حَدَّثَنَا آدَمُ، حَدَّثَنَا شُعْبَةُ، حَدَّثَنَا الأَسْوَدُ بْنُ قَيْسٍ، حَدَّثَنَا سَعِيدُ بْنُ عَمْرٍو، أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ ابْنَ عُمَرَ ـ رضى الله عنهما ـ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم أَنَّهُ قَالَ «إِنَّا أُمَّةٌ أُمِّيَّةٌ، لاَ نَكْتُبُ وَلاَ نَحْسُبُ الشَّهْرُ هَكَذَا وَهَكَذَا». يَعْنِي مَرَّةً تِسْعَةً وَعِشْرِينَ، وَمَرَّةً ثَلاَثِينَ.

TRANSLATION:

Ibn 'Umar رضى الله عنهما narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said: **"We are an unlettered nation; we neither write nor calculate. The month is like this and like this"** — meaning sometimes twenty-nine days and sometimes thirty.

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Adam ibn Abi Iyas, from Shu'bah, from al-Aswad ibn Qays, from Sa'id ibn 'Amr, from 'Abdullah ibn 'Umar رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Fasting (Kitab as-Sawm), Hadith No. 1913; also narrated by Muslim (No. 1080).

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:1913

A lunar month is ***29 or 30 days***, so books of jurisprudence explain how to ***sight the new moon***.

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ONE LIFETIME, TWO CALENDARS

SURAH YUNUS 10:5

هُوَ ٱلَّذِى جَعَلَ ٱلشَّمْسَ ضِيَآءً وَٱلْقَمَرَ نُورًا وَقَدَّرَهُۥ مَنَازِلَ لِتَعْلَمُوا۟ عَدَدَ ٱلسِّنِينَ وَٱلْحِسَابَ ۚ مَا خَلَقَ ٱللَّهُ ذَٰلِكَ إِلَّا بِٱلْحَقِّ ۚ يُفَصِّلُ ٱلْءَايَٰتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ ۝٥

It is He who made the sun a shining light and the moon a derived light and determined for it phases - that you may know the number of years and account [of time]. Allah has not created this except in truth. He details the signs for a people who know.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/10:5

Allah made the sun and the moon ***"that you may know the number of years and account [of time]"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 10:5.

Al-Banjari died on ***6 Shawwal 1227 AH (13 October 1812 CE)***. By the ***Hijri*** calendar he lived ***105 years***; by the ***Gregorian*** calendar, about ***102 years***.

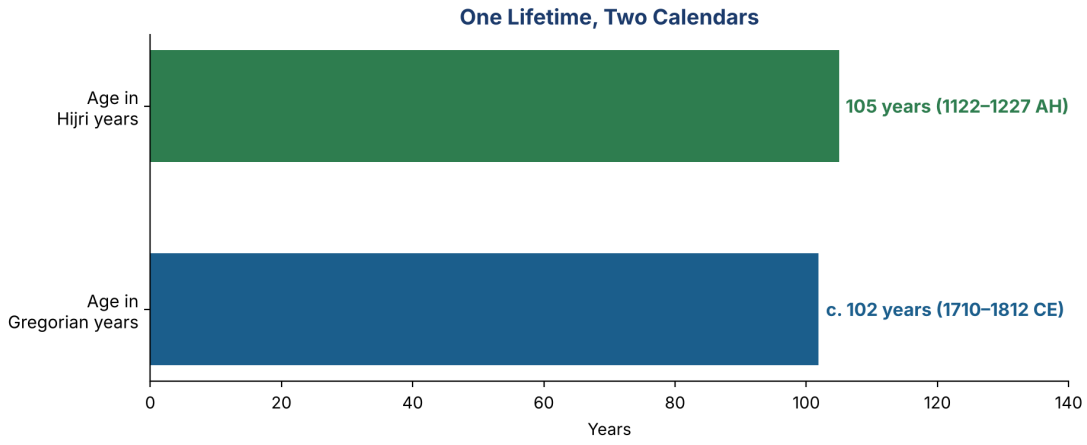


Figure 5: One lifetime, two calendars.

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WHY THE DIFFERENCE?

A lunar month averages about ***29.5 days*** https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/4310/, while a solar year is about ***365.2422 days*** https://www.grc.nasa.gov/www/K-12/Numbers/Math/Mathematical_Thinking/calendar_calculations.htm.

CALENDAR	FEATURE
Hijri (lunar)	12 months × about 29.53 days ≈ 354.37 days a year.
Gregorian (solar)	≈ 365.24 days a year.
Difference	About 11 days a year; 33 Hijri years ≈ 32 Gregorian years.
Use in worship	Fasting, Hajj, zakat and the Eids follow the Hijri calendar.

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THE SCHOLAR AND THE SULTAN

Al-Banjari was raised in the palace and wrote Sabil al-Muhtadin on the advice of ***Sultan Tahmidullah***. A good relationship between scholar and sultan allowed ***knowledge to spread*** and ***rulings to be applied***.

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

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

The sultan is responsible for his people; the scholar for ***the knowledge he conveys***.

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OTHER WORKS

Besides Sabil al-Muhtadin, al-Banjari left several other works on ***creed, Sufism*** and ***the Qur'an***.

WORK	DETAILS
Tuhfat ar-Raghibin	His first work, completed in 1188 AH (1774 CE).
Sabil al-Muhtadin	Shafi'i jurisprudence in two volumes, completed in 1195 AH (1780 CE).
Kanz al-Ma'rifah	A work on Sufism and ma'rifah.
Mushaf of the Qur'an	His hand-written copy of the Qur'an.
Mas'alat al-Qiblah fi al-Batawi	A treatise on the qiblah in Batavia (1772 CE).

Sources: NU Online and the UIN Alauddin journal. https://nu.or.id/tokoh/ulama-yang-membangun-saluran-irigasi-fEg0T

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THE REWARD OF CALLING TO GUIDANCE

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2674

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ بْنُ سَعِيدٍ، وَابْنُ حُجْرٍ، قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - يَعْنُونَ ابْنَ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «مَنْ دَعَا إِلَى هُدًى كَانَ لَهُ مِنَ الأَجْرِ مِثْلُ أُجُورِ مَنْ تَبِعَهُ لاَ يَنْقُصُ ذَلِكَ مِنْ أُجُورِهِمْ شَيْئًا وَمَنْ دَعَا إِلَى ضَلاَلَةٍ كَانَ عَلَيْهِ مِنَ الإِثْمِ مِثْلُ آثَامِ مَنْ تَبِعَهُ لاَ يَنْقُصُ ذَلِكَ مِنْ آثَامِهِمْ شَيْئًا».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه reported that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"Whoever calls to guidance will have a reward like the rewards of those who follow him, without that diminishing their rewards in the least.** And whoever calls to misguidance will bear a sin like the sins of those who follow him, without that diminishing their sins in the least."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya ibn Ayyub, Qutaybah ibn Sa'id and 'Ali ibn Hujr, from Isma'il ibn Ja'far, from al-'Ala' ibn 'Abd ar-Rahman, from his father 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn Ya'qub, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Knowledge, Hadith No. 2674.

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

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2674

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Everyone who has learned from Sabil al-Muhtadin and practised it — from 1780 CE until today — becomes ***a continuing reward*** for its author, by Allah's permission.

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BROTHERHOOD AMONG SCHOLARS

The four companions from the land of Jawi studied together, shared books and ***helped one another*** far from home. Their friendship continued until ***'Abd al-Wahhab Bugis*** became al-Banjari's ***son-in-law***.

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 13 (MUTTAFAQ 'ALAIH)

حَدَّثَنَا مُسَدَّدٌ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى، عَنْ شُعْبَةَ، عَنْ قَتَادَةَ، عَنْ أَنَسٍ - رضى الله عنه - عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم. وَعَنْ حُسَيْنٍ الْمُعَلِّمِ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا قَتَادَةُ، عَنْ أَنَسٍ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «لاَ يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّى يُحِبَّ لأَخِيهِ مَا يُحِبُّ لِنَفْسِهِ».

TRANSLATION:

Anas رضى الله عنه reported that the Prophet ﷺ said: **"None of you (truly) believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Musaddad, from Yahya ibn Sa'id al-Qattan, from Shu'bah, from Qatadah, from Anas ibn Malik رضى الله عنه; and through a second chain from Husayn al-Mu'allim, from Qatadah.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Faith, Hadith No. 13. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 45).

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:13

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Complete faith means ***loving one's brother*** as one loves oneself. The scholars of the region in Mecca proved this through ***cooperation*** in seeking and spreading knowledge.

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BETWEEN ESTABLISHED REPORTS AND POPULAR STORIES

SURAH AL-ISRA' 17:36

وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِۦ عِلْمٌۚ إِنَّ ٱلسَّمْعَ وَٱلْبَصَرَ وَٱلْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُوْلَٰٓئِكَ 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

"And 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

STORIES AND THEIR STATUS

POPULAR CLAIM	STATUS
Al-Banjari was born in 1710 CE and died in 1812 CE.	Generally accepted; his Hijri dates are 1122–1227 AH.
He corrected the qiblah of mosques in Batavia in 1772 CE.	Reported in historical sources and studies of astronomy.
He wrote Sabil al-Muhtadin on the Sultan's advice.	Established in the book's introduction and academic studies.
The Sultan took him to the palace, impressed by his painting at age 7.	A famous account in Banjar tradition; cannot be confirmed from contemporary sources.
His grandfather was a sultan who founded the kingdom of Mindanao.	A family account; needs further study.
Stories of his miracles (karamah).	Many come from oral tradition; cannot be confirmed.

REFLECTION — HONOURING WITHOUT EXAGGERATING

We honour al-Banjari by ***studying his book*** and ***following his example of service*** to the community, not by believing every story without evidence.

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AL-BANJARI'S LEGACY TODAY

Al-Banjari is buried at ***Kalampayan***, South Kalimantan — hence his title ***Datu Kalampayan***. The name of his book lives on in the largest mosque in Banjarmasin.

HISTORY NOTE: THE SABILAL MUHTADIN GRAND MOSQUE

The mosque stands in ***Banjarmasin***. Its foundation stone was laid in ***1964***, active construction began on ***10 November 1974***, and it was inaugurated on ***9 February 1981***.

It holds up to ***15,000 worshippers*** — 7,500 in the main prayer hall and 7,500 in the courtyards and other spaces. It is named after the book ***Sabil al-Muhtadin*** by Shaykh Muhammad Arsyad al-Banjari.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Grand Mosque of Sabilal Muhtadin". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Mosque_of_Sabilal_Muhtadin

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LESSONS FOR US

LEGACY	LESSON
The book Sabil al-Muhtadin	Written knowledge benefits people for centuries.
The irrigation canal	Scholars also serve the people's livelihood.
The qiblah correction	Science (astronomy) supports worship.
Students and descendants	Knowledge is carried on by the next generations.

Al-Banjari combined ***religious knowledge***, ***astronomy*** and ***community service*** — a complete example of a scholar for the Ummah today.

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LESSONS AND CONCLUSION

LESSONS FROM THIS EBOOK

First: Those who know are not equal to those who do not (39:9; 58:11).

Second: Seek knowledge even far away, then teach your people (9:122; Sahih Muslim 2699).

Third: Understanding of the religion is a sign of good (Sahih al-Bukhari 71, 100).

Fourth: Be companions in seeking knowledge (Sahih al-Bukhari 13).

Fifth: Face the qiblah accurately; astronomy supports worship (2:144, 2:150).

Sixth: Correct mistakes with evidence and wisdom, as in the qiblah correction in Batavia.

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

Eighth: Develop the earth with excellence and the work of your hands (11:61; Sahih Muslim 1955; Sahih al-Bukhari 2072).

Ninth: Allah makes the crops grow; be grateful for food (56:63–64; 80:24–27).

Tenth: Know the Hijri calendar and the new moon (2:189; 9:36; 10:5; Sahih al-Bukhari 1909, 1913).

Eleventh: Scholars and leaders complement each other (Sahih al-Bukhari 7138).

Twelfth: Call to guidance and verify every story (Sahih Muslim 2674; 17:36).

CONCLUSION

Shaykh Muhammad Arsyad al-Banjari died on ***6 Shawwal 1227 AH (13 October 1812 CE)*** and was buried at Kalampayan. The next book of **Tracing the Scholars of Islam**, in sha Allah, will tell the story of ***Shaykh Daud al-Fatani***, the great scholar of Patani. Wallahu a'lam.

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GLOSSARY AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

GLOSSARY

TERM	MEANING
Datu Kalampayan	Al-Banjari's title, after the place of his tomb.
Haramain	The two sanctuaries: Mecca and Medina.
Astronomy (falak)	The science used for prayer times, the qiblah and the new moon.
Mihrab	The niche in a mosque wall showing the qiblah.
Great circle	The shortest route between two points on a sphere.
Lunar calendar	A calendar based on the cycle of the moon.
Sabil al-Muhtadin	Al-Banjari's Malay book of Shafi'i jurisprudence.
Land of Jawi	The Arab scholars' name for the Malay world.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What does verse 39:9 mean, and how did al-Banjari live it?

2. Why did the mihrabs of mosques in Batavia need to be turned 25°?

3. How did an irrigation canal become part of da'wah?

4. Why was al-Banjari 105 years old by the Hijri calendar but only about 102 by the Gregorian?

5. What is the link between as-Sirat al-Mustaqim and Sabil al-Muhtadin?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Calculate your age in Hijri years: Gregorian age × 365.24 ÷ 354.37.

Activity 2: Use a compass app to check the qiblah at home and compare it with a nearby mosque.

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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."

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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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