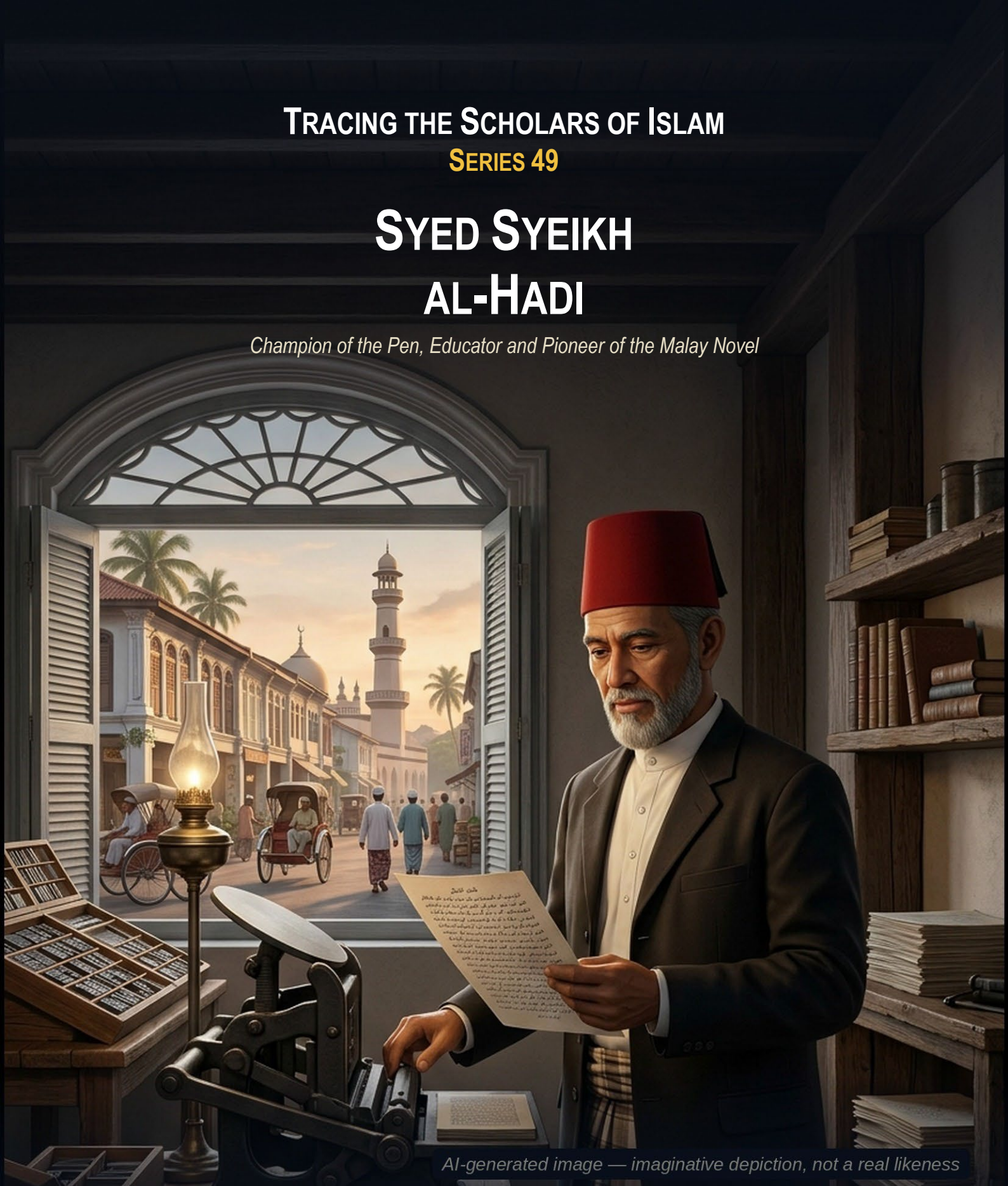
Tracing the Scholars of Islam

Series 49

Syed Syeikh al-Hadi

Champion of the Pen, Educator and Pioneer of the Malay Novel



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

TRACING THE SCHOLARS OF ISLAM

SERIES 49

SYED SYEIKH AL-HADI

Champion of the Pen, Educator and Pioneer of the Malay Novel

نٓ وَٱلْقَلَمِ وَمَا يَسْطُرُونَ ۚ

"Nun. By the pen and what they inscribe."

SURAH AL-QALAM 68:1

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise is due to Allah, who swears by the pen and what is written. 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-ninth book of Tracing the Scholars of Islam tells the story of Syed Syeikh ibn Ahmad al-Hadi — a son of Malacca raised at the Riau court, who founded the magazines al-Imam and al-Ikhwan, the newspaper Saudara and several madrasahs, and wrote Hikayat Faridah Hanom. May his story teach us to use the pen to educate and reform 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 Syed Syeikh al-Hadi. This label is also printed on the cover. A man in a red fez (tarboosh), a dark jacket and a checked sarong stands in ***an old printing shop***, reading ***a freshly printed page in Jawi script***.

Beside him are ***an iron hand press***, ***cases of printing type***, a lamp, and ***stacks of paper and books*** — symbols of ***al-Imam, al-Ikhwan, Saudara*** and ***the Jelutong Press*** that he founded.

Through ***an arched window*** is a colonial street with ***shophouses***, ***rickshaws***, ***coconut palms*** and ***a mosque minaret*** — the feel of ***Singapore and Penang*** in the early 20th century.

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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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SYED SYEIKH AL-HADI

The forty-ninth book of **Tracing the Scholars of Islam** tells the story of ***Syed Syeikh ibn Ahmad al-Hadi*** (1867–1934 CE) — a son of ***Malacca*** of Arab-Malay descent who became ***a journalist, publisher, educator and novelist***, and one of the leading figures of ***the reform (Kaum Muda) movement*** in Malaya.

He founded the magazines ***al-Imam*** (1906) and ***al-Ikhwan*** (1926), the newspaper ***Saudara*** (1928), the ***Jelutong Press*** (1927), and several ***madrasahs*** in Singapore, Malacca and Penang. His novel ***Hikayat Faridah Hanom*** is often called ***the first modern Malay novel***.

This eBook explains ***the verses on the pen, knowledge and reason***, the background of ***the Straits Settlements and Riau***, the course of his life, ***the magazines and madrasahs*** he founded, ***his novels***, his championing of ***women's education***, and his legacy.

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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BY THE PEN AND WHAT THEY INSCRIBE

SURAH AL-QALAM 68:1

نٓ وَٱلۡقَلَمِ وَمَا يَسۡطُرُونَ ١

Nun. By the pen and what they inscribe.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/68:1

Allah swears: ***"By the pen and what they inscribe"***. Allah's oath by the pen shows ***the honour of writing*** that carries the truth. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 68:1.

This verse is the ***motto*** of this eBook because Syed Syeikh al-Hadi is remembered as ***"a champion of the pen"*** — his life was filled with writing, editing, translating and printing.

WHO TAUGHT BY THE PEN

Allah is the One ***"Who taught by the pen"*** (96:4). Tafsir Ibn Kathir 96:4.

FORM OF WRITING	EXAMPLES FROM SYED SYEIKH AL-HADI
Magazines	al-Imam (1906–1908), al-Ikhwan (1926–1931).
Newspaper	Saudara (1928–1941).
Novels	Hikayat Faridah Hanom (1925/26) and others.
Books	Ugama Islam dan 'Akal; Kitab 'Alam Perempuan.

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INCREASE ME IN KNOWLEDGE

Allah taught the Messenger ﷺ to pray (20:114): ***"My Lord, increase me in knowledge"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 20:114.

Syed Syeikh al-Hadi believed that ***the decline of the Ummah*** came from ***a lack of knowledge***. So he opened ***madrasahs***, published ***magazines*** and wrote ***books*** — so that knowledge would reach as many people as possible.

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

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BACKGROUND: THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS AND RIAU

In the late 19th century CE, ***Malacca, Penang and Singapore*** were under British rule as ***the Straits Settlements***. Across the Straits of Malacca, ***the Riau-Lingga Sultanate*** was under Dutch influence.

HISTORY NOTE: PENYENGAT ISLAND: A CENTRE OF LEARNING AND LETTERS

Penyengat Island in Riau was the seat of the Yamtuan Muda of Riau and ***a centre of Malay letters*** — where many Malay books and literary works were written in the 19th century CE.

In ***1911***, after the Dutch took over Riau-Lingga, many Riau figures — including Syed Syeikh al-Hadi — moved to ***Johor and Singapore***.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Syed Sheikh al-Hadi". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syed_Sheikh_al-Hadi

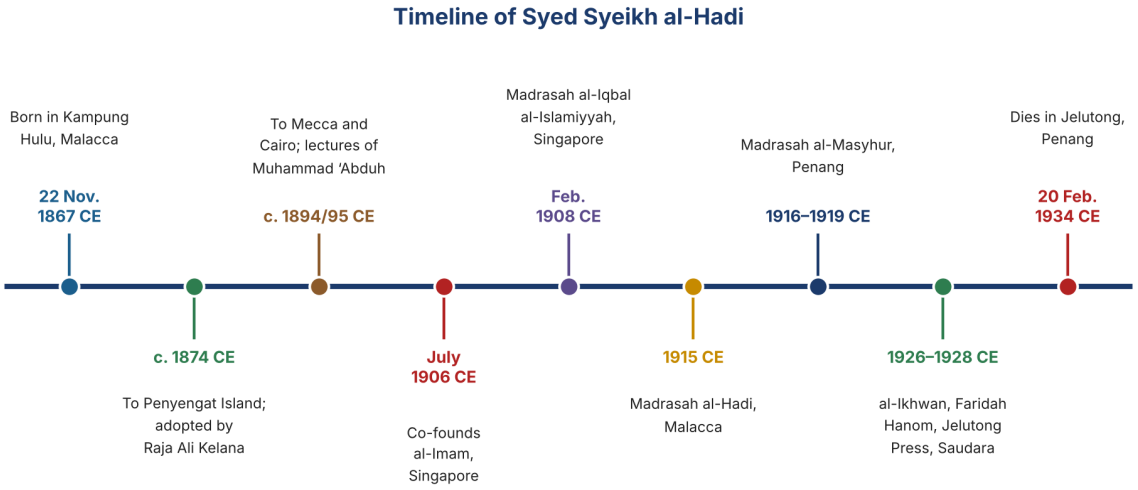
PLACE	LINK WITH SYED SYEIKH AL-HADI
Malacca	Birthplace (1867); Madrasah al-Hadi (1915).
Penyengat Island, Riau	Raised by Raja Ali Kelana.
Singapore	al-Imam (1906); Madrasah al-Iqbal (1908).
Penang	Madrasah al-Masyhur; al-Ikhwan; Saudara; died 1934.

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BORN IN KAMPUNG HULU, MALACCA

Syed Syeikh al-Hadi was born in ***Kampung Hulu, Malacca***, on ***22 November 1867 CE (25 Rajab 1284 AH)***, according to Wikipedia. Britannica gives ***9 November 1867***. His full name was ***Sayyid Syeikh ibn Ahmad al-Hadi***.

His four older brothers ***died in infancy***. His father, ***Sayyid Ahmad***, later died on Penyengat Island on ***9 June 1895***. Source: Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syed_Sheikh_al-Hadi



Sources: Wikipedia, Britannica and NUS Libraries. Britannica gives his birth as 9 November 1867.

Figure 1: Timeline of Syed Syeikh al-Hadi.

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RAISED ON PENYENGAT ISLAND

Around ***1874 CE***, at about ***seven years old***, he was taken by his father to ***Penyengat Island***. There he was ***adopted*** by ***Raja Haji Ali Kelana***, the designated successor of the Yamtuan Muda of Riau-Lingga.

HISTORY NOTE: AN EDUCATION AT THE RIAU COURT

He studied for a year or two at ***a traditional religious school in Kuala Terengganu***, then returned to Penyengat to study under ***Raja Ali Kelana***.

In the early 1890s he helped found ***the Persekutuan Rusydiyyah***, ***a study club*** on Penyengat. In 1891 he married ***Sharifah Syeikhun***.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Syed Sheikh al-Hadi". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syed_Sheikh_al-Hadi
Britannica, "Sayyid Shaykh bin Ahmad al-Hadi". https://www.britannica.com/print/article/251123

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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

Raised in ***the learned circle*** of the Riau court, Syed Syeikh al-Hadi combined ***religious knowledge***, ***Malay language and literature***, and ***business and administration***.

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TO MECCA AND CAIRO

Around ***1894/95 CE***, Syed Syeikh al-Hadi travelled to ***Mecca and Cairo*** with ***Shaykh Tahir Jalaluddin*** (Book 48). In Cairo he ***attended the lectures of Shaykh Muhammad 'Abduh*** (Book 50).

HISTORY NOTE: THE INFLUENCE OF MUHAMMAD 'ABDUH

According to Britannica, al-Imam was modelled on the Cairo magazine ***al-Manar*** and spread ***the modernist ideas*** of Muhammad 'Abduh and his followers.

In ***October 1904*** he went again to the Middle East with Raja Ali Kelana to seek the support of ***the Ottoman Caliph*** for the Yamtuan Muda of Riau.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Syed Sheikh al-Hadi". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syed_Sheikh_al-Hadi
Britannica, "Sayyid Shaykh bin Ahmad al-Hadi". https://www.britannica.com/print/article/251123

YEAR	EVENT
1896 CE	Raja Ali Kelana buys the Batam Brickworks.
1901 CE	He becomes its agent, then managing director, in Singapore.
1904 CE	To the Middle East with Raja Ali Kelana.
1906 CE	Co-founds al-Imam in Singapore.

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THE AL-IMAM MAGAZINE

In ***July 1906***, Syed Syeikh al-Hadi, with Arab and Malay scholars and merchants, founded ***al-Imam*** in ***Singapore***. This Jawi-script magazine ran until ***December 1908***, in ***31 issues***, with a print run of ***about 5,000 copies*** — the largest of any Malay newspaper before the Second World War.

HISTORY NOTE: THE AL-IMAM PRINTING COMPANY

In ***March 1908*** he also co-founded ***the Al-Imam Printing Company***. One issue dated 16 January 1907 was printed at ***19 Weld Road, Singapore***.

According to Biblioasia, al-Hadi was ***the earliest editor*** of al-Imam; Wikipedia names Shaykh Tahir Jalaluddin as its editor.

REFERENCES:

Biblioasia (NLB), "Sumbangan Arab". https://biblioasia.nlb.gov.sg/files/pdf/vol-5/issue-4/v5-issue4_SumbanganArab.pdf

NUS Libraries, "Al-Imam, Al-Ikhwan and the Reformist Vision of Syed Sheikh al-Hadi". https://blog.nus.edu.sg/linus/2025/04/03/al-imam-al-ikhwan-and-the-reformist-vision-of-syed-sheikh-al-hadi-key-intellectual-publications-in-nus-libraries-special-collections

INVESTIGATE THE NEWS

SURAH AL-HUJURAT 49:6

يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوٓاْ إِن جَآءَكُمۡ فَاسِقُۢ بِنَبَإٖ فَتَبَيَّنُوٓاْ أَن تُصِيبُواْ قَوۡمَۢا بِجَهَٰلَةٖ فَتُصۡبِحُواْ عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلۡتُمۡ نَٰدِمِينَ ٦

O you who have believed, if there comes to you a disobedient one with information, investigate, lest you harm a people out of ignorance and become, over what you have done, regretful.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/49:6

Allah teaches: if news comes to you, ***"investigate, lest you harm a people out of ignorance"***. This verse is the basis of ***journalistic ethics*** in Islam. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 49:6.

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).

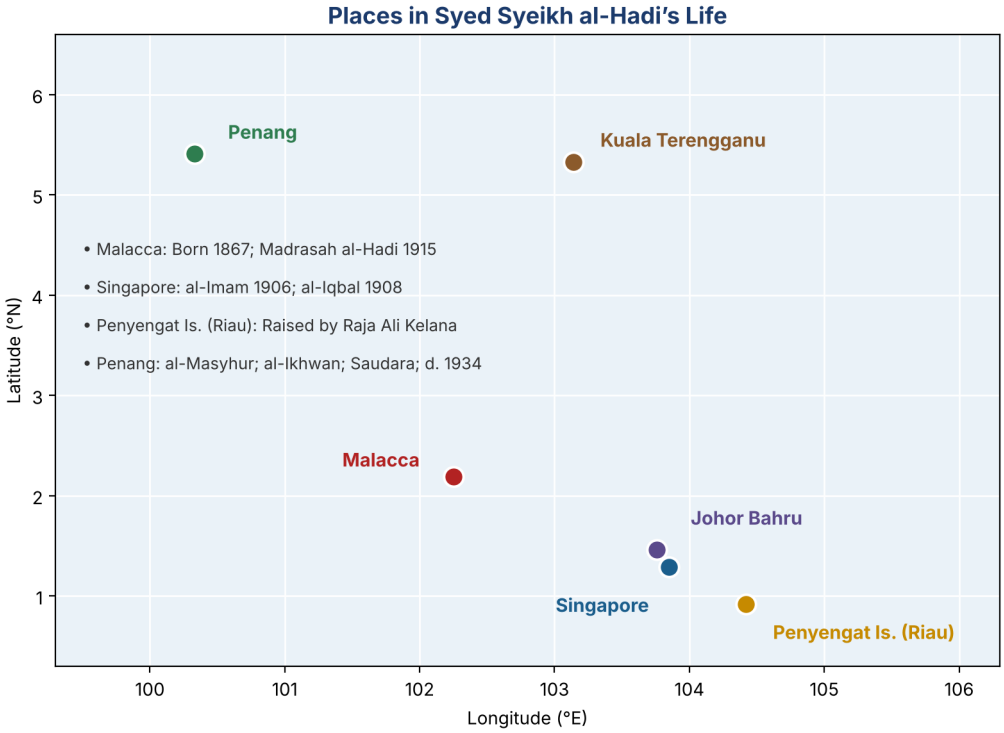
GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

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

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MADRASAH AL-IQBAL AL-ISLAMIYYAH

In ***February 1908***, Syed Syeikh al-Hadi also co-founded ***Madrasah al-Iqbal al-Islamiyyah*** in Singapore — a madrasah that combined ***religious knowledge*** with ***modern subjects***. It closed in ***1909***.



Approximate positions. He also studied a year or two in Kuala Terengganu, and moved to Johor Bahru in 1911. Source: Wikipedia.

Figure 2: Places in Syed Syeikh al-Hadi's life (approximate positions).

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HISTORY NOTE: A NEW MODEL OF MADRASAH

The Kaum Muda madrasahs used ***classes, timetables and a syllabus***, unlike traditional pondok learning (see Book 46).

Although Madrasah al-Iqbal did not last long, it was ***an early model*** for the madrasahs later founded in Malacca and Penang.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Syed Sheikh al-Hadi". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syed_Sheikh_al-Hadi

TRADITIONAL PONDOK	KAUM MUDA MADRASAH
Books read chapter by chapter	A syllabus and classes by level.
Focus on religious knowledge	Religion together with modern subjects.
No formal examinations	Timetables and examinations.

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IN JOHOR AND MALACCA

In ***1911***, after the Dutch took over Riau-Lingga, he moved to ***Johor Bahru*** and, according to Wikipedia, became ***a lawyer at the Shari'ah court***. In ***1914*** he fell into a dispute with ***the Mufti of Johor***, and moved to ***Malacca***.

In ***1915*** he founded ***Madrasah al-Hadi*** in Kampung Hulu, Malacca — the village of his birth. It closed in ***1917***.

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ARGUING IN THE BEST WAY

SURAH AN-NAHL 16:125

ٱدۡعُ إِلَىٰ سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِٱلۡحِكۡمَةِ وَٱلۡمَوۡعِظَةِ ٱلۡحَسَنَةِۖ وَجَٰدِلۡهُم بِٱلَّتِي هِيَ
أَحۡسَنُۚ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعۡلَمُ بِمَن ضَلَّ عَن سَبِيلِهِۦ وَهُوَ أَعۡلَمُ بِٱلۡمُهۡتَدِينَ ١٢٥

Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and argue with them in a way that is best. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has strayed from His way, and He is most knowing of who is [rightly] guided.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/16:125

"argue with them in a way that is best". Tafsir Ibn Kathir 16:125.

Disputes between ***the Kaum Muda and the Kaum Tua*** sometimes grew tense. This verse reminds us that differences of opinion must be met with ***wisdom and courtesy***.

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MADRASAH AL-MASYHUR IN PENANG

Around ***1916***, Syed Syeikh al-Hadi moved to ***Penang*** and co-founded ***Madrasah al-Masyhur al-Islamiyyah***. He became its ***director*** in early 1917 and handed over its management in 1918/19.

HISTORY NOTE: DIFFERING DATES

Wikipedia dates the madrasah's founding to ***1916***. Britannica says he helped run a religious school in Penang in ***1919***, and another source says he ***founded it and became its headmaster in 1919***.

Later, in ***1920***, ***Shaykh Tahir Jalaluddin*** (Book 48) became ***head (mudir)*** of the same madrasah.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Syed Sheikh al-Hadi". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syed_Sheikh_al-Hadi
Penang Travel Tips, "Sheikh Al-Hadi's House". https://www.penang-traveltips.com/sheikh-al-hadi-house.htm

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THE RANK OF THE PEOPLE OF KNOWLEDGE

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.

Two reformers — Syed Syeikh al-Hadi and Shaykh Tahir Jalaluddin — ***served the same madrasah***, showing ***cooperation*** in the struggle for education.

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RELIGION AND REASON

One of his important books is ***Ugama Islam dan 'Akal*** (Islam and Reason, 1931), which argues that Islam is ***a religion that honours reason***.

SURAH AL-ANFAL 8:22

۞إِنَّ شَرَّ ٱلدَّوَآبِّ عِندَ ٱللَّهِ ٱلصُّمُّ ٱلۡبُكۡمُ ٱلَّذِينَ لَا يَعۡقِلُونَ ٢٢

Indeed, the worst of living creatures in the sight of Allah are the deaf and dumb who do not use reason.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/8:22

Allah condemns ***"the deaf and dumb who do not use reason"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 8:22.

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WISDOM

Allah says (2:269): ***"whoever has been given wisdom has certainly been given much good"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 2:269.

THE CALL OF THE KAUM MUDA	ITS MEANING
Use reason	Understand religion, not merely follow.
Return to the Qur'an and Sunnah	Judge practices by the evidence.
Modern knowledge	The Ummah must progress in science and economy.
Education for all	Including girls.

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HIKAYAT FARIDAH HANOM

Hikayat Faridah Hanom (1925/26) is often called ***the first modern Malay novel***. According to Britannica, it was ***adapted from an Egyptian love story***, and is set in ***Egyptian*** society.

SURAH YUSUF 12:3

نَحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ أَحْسَنَ ٱلْقَصَصِ بِمَآ أَوْحَيْنَآ إِلَيْكَ هَٰذَا ٱلْقُرْءَانَ وَإِن
كُنتَ مِن قَبْلِهِۦ لَمِنَ ٱلْغَٰفِلِينَ ٣

We relate to you, [O Muhammad], the best of stories in what We have revealed to you of this Qur'an although you were, before it, among the unaware.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/12:3

Allah says: ***"We relate to you, [O Muhammad], the best of stories"***. The Qur'an uses ***stories*** to educate. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 12:3.

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HISTORY NOTE: THE NOVEL AS A MEANS OF DA'WAH

Through the novel, Syed Syeikh al-Hadi conveyed ideas about ***women's education, marriage by consent***, and ***social progress*** — to readers who might never read a religious book.

Hamka (Book 47) later used ***the same method*** in Indonesia through his novels.

REFERENCES:

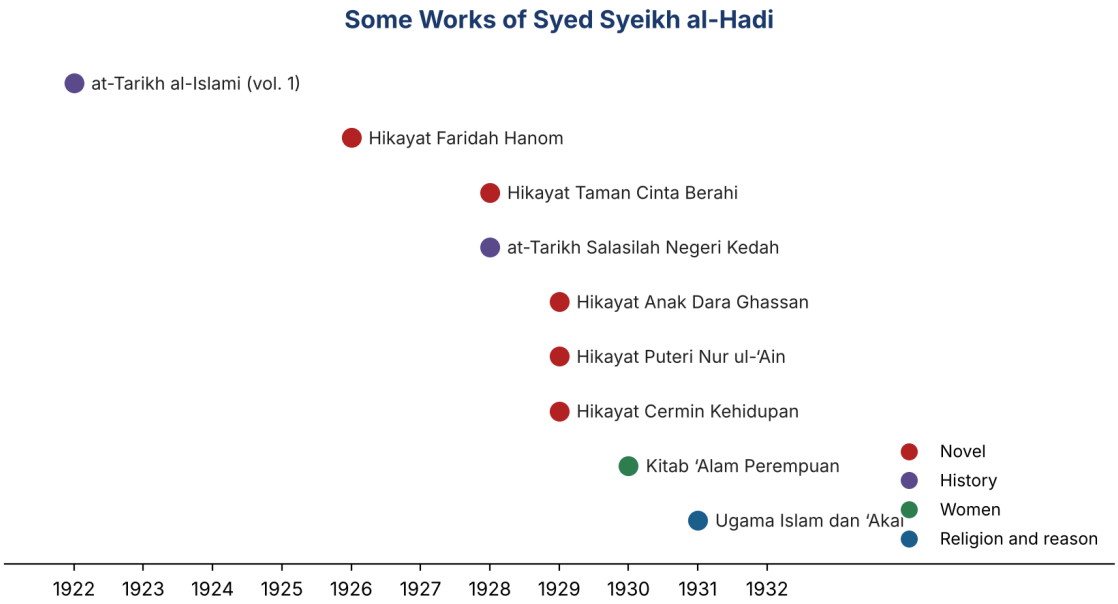
Britannica, "Sayyid Shaykh bin Ahmad al-Hadi". https://www.britannica.com/print/article/251123

NUS Libraries. https://blog.nus.edu.sg/linus/2025/04/03/al-imam-al-ikhwan-and-the-reformist-vision-of-syed-sheikh-al-hadi-key-intellectual-publications-in-nus-libraries-special-collections

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NOVELS, HISTORY AND OTHER STORIES

Besides Faridah Hanom, Syed Syeikh al-Hadi wrote ***novels, history books*** and ***a detective series***. The figure below shows some of his works.



Source: Wikipedia. Faridah Hanom is dated 1925/26; Britannica gives 1926. The Rokambul detective series (7 stories) is not shown.

Figure 3: Some works of Syed Syeikh al-Hadi.

He also wrote the ***Rokambul*** detective series (seven stories). Source: Wikipedia.

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CHAMPIONING WOMEN

Syed Syeikh al-Hadi was among the earliest Malay writers to ***champion women's education and rights***. His ***Kitab 'Alam Perempuan*** (1930) discusses women's freedom, and in 1930 he ***translated Qasim Amin's Tahrir al-Mar'ah*** into Malay.

SURAH AL-AHZAB 33:35

إِنَّ ٱلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَٱلْمُسْلِمَٰتِ وَٱلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَٱلْمُؤْمِنَٰتِ وَٱلْقَٰنِتِينَ وَٱلْقَٰنِتَٰتِ
وَٱلصَّٰدِقِينَ وَٱلصَّٰدِقَٰتِ وَٱلصَّٰبِرِينَ وَٱلصَّٰبِرَٰتِ وَٱلْخَٰشِعِينَ وَٱلْخَٰشِعَٰتِ
وَٱلْمُتَصَدِّقِينَ وَٱلْمُتَصَدِّقَٰتِ وَٱلصَّآئِمِينَ وَٱلصَّآئِمَٰتِ وَٱلْحَٰفِظِينَ فُرُوجَهُمْ
وَٱلْحَٰفِظَٰتِ وَٱلذَّٰكِرِينَ ٱللَّهَ كَثِيرًا وَٱلذَّٰكِرَٰتِ أَعَدَّ ٱللَّهُ لَهُم مَّغْفِرَةً وَأَجْرًا
عَظِيمًا ﴿٣٥﴾

Indeed, the Muslim men and Muslim women, the believing men and believing women, the obedient men and obedient women, the truthful men and truthful women, the patient men and patient women, the humble men and humble women, the charitable men and charitable women, the fasting men and fasting women, the men who guard their private parts and the women who do so, and the men who remember Allah often and the women who do so - for them Allah has prepared forgiveness and a great reward.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/33:35

Allah mentions ***"the Muslim men and Muslim women" in pairs***, and promises them the same reward. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 33:35.

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Allah also says (16:97): ***"Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer"***, Allah will give a good life. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 16:97.

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 101

حَدَّثَنَا آدَمُ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا شُعْبَةُ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنِي ابْنُ الأَصْبَهَانِيِّ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ أَبَا صَالِحٍ، ذَكْوَانَ يُحَدِّثُ عَنْ أَبِي سَعِيدٍ الخُدْرِيِّ، قَالَتِ النِّسَاءُ لِلنَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم غَلَبَنَا عَلَيْكَ الرِّجَالُ، فَاجْعَلْ لَنَا يَوْمًا مِنْ نَفْسِكَ. فَوَعَدَهُنَّ يَوْمًا لَقِيَهُنَّ فِيهِ، فَوَعَظَهُنَّ وَأَمَرَهُنَّ، فَكَانَ فِيمَا قَالَ لَهُنَّ «مَا مِنْكُنَّ امْرَأَةٌ تُقَدِّمُ ثَلاَثَةً مِنْ وَلَدِهَا إِلاَّ كَانَ لَهَا حِجَابًا مِنَ النَّارِ». فَقَالَتِ امْرَأَةٌ وَاثْنَيْنِ فَقَالَ «وَاثْنَيْنِ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Sa'id al-Khudri رضى الله عنه narrated: **The women said to the Prophet ﷺ: "The men have taken all your time from us, so appoint a day for us from yourself."** So he promised them a day on which he met them, advised them and instructed them. Among what he said to them was: "There is no woman among you who loses three of her children but they will be a shield for her from the Fire." A woman asked: "And two?" He said: "And two."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Adam, from Shu'bah, from Ibn al-Asbahani, from Abu Salih Dhakwan, from Abu Sa'id al-Khudri رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Knowledge, Chapter on Setting a Special Day for Teaching Women, Hadith No. 101.

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:101

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

The women of the Prophet's ﷺ own time ***asked for time to learn***, and he granted their request.

Women's education is part of the teaching of Islam.

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THE AL-IKHWAN MAGAZINE

In ***September 1926***, Syed Syeikh al-Hadi launched the monthly magazine ***al-Ikhwan*** in ***Penang***. Compared with al-Imam, al-Ikhwan focused more on ***social and political issues***: education, social justice and the role of women.

HISTORY NOTE: AL-IKHWAN (1926–1931)

Wikipedia says al-Ikhwan ceased in ***December 1931***; Britannica and NUS Libraries give ***1930***.

The issue of ***16 December 1930*** featured the Egyptian women's leader ***Huda Sha'rawi*** on its cover — a sign of the magazine's interest in women's issues.

REFERENCES:

NUS Libraries. https://blog.nus.edu.sg/linus/2025/04/03/al-imam-al-ikhwan-and-the-reformist-vision-of-syed-sheikh-al-hadi-key-intellectual-publications-in-nus-libraries-special-collections

Wikipedia, "Syed Sheikh al-Hadi". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syed_Sheikh_al-Hadi

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SPEAK GOOD OR REMAIN SILENT

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 6018 (MUTTAFAQ ‘ALAYH)

حَدَّثَنَا قُتَيْبَةُ بْنُ سَعِيدٍ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو الأَحْوَصِ، عَنْ أَبِي حَصِينٍ، عَنْ أَبِي صَالِحٍ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «مَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الآخِرِ فَلاَ يُؤْذِ جَارَهُ، وَمَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الآخِرِ فَلْيُكْرِمْ ضَيْفَهُ، وَمَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الآخِرِ فَلْيَقُلْ خَيْرًا أَوْ لِيَصْمُتْ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **“Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him not harm his neighbour; whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him honour his guest; and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him speak good or remain silent.”**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Qutaybah ibn Sa‘id, from Abu al-Ahwas, from Abu Hasin, from Abu Salih, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Good Manners, Chapter: Whoever Believes in Allah and the Last Day Should Not Harm His Neighbour, Hadith No. 6018. Also narrated by Muslim (No. 47).

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:6018

For a writer, this Hadith means: ***write what is good***, or do not write. The pen is ***a trust***.

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THE JELUTONG PRESS AND THE SAUDARA NEWSPAPER

In ***1927*** he founded ***the Jelutong Press*** in Penang, which ran for ***14 years*** until ***the Japanese occupation***. In ***September 1928*** he launched the weekly newspaper ***Saudara***, which continued until ***1941***.

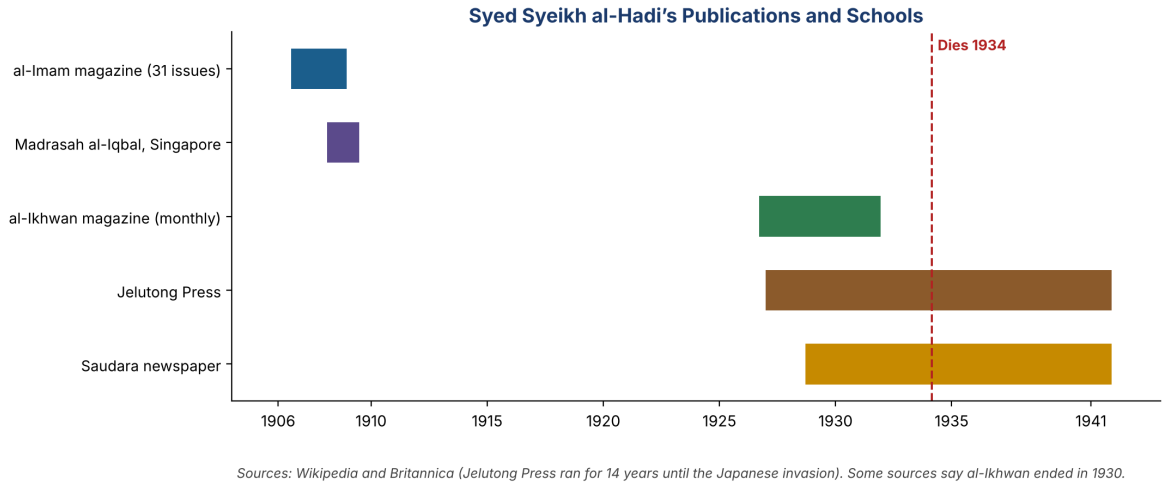


Figure 4: Syed Syeikh al-Hadi's publications and schools.

Sources: Wikipedia and Britannica. https://www.britannica.com/print/article/251123

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COMPANIONS IN THE STRUGGLE

Syed Syeikh al-Hadi did not struggle alone. He worked with ***Shaykh Tahir Jalaluddin***, ***Shaykh Muhammad Salim al-Kalali*** and many other ***Kaum Muda*** figures.

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

حَدَّثَنَا مُسَدَّدٌ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى، عَنْ شُعْبَةَ، عَنْ قَتَادَةَ، عَنْ أَنَسٍ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ 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

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COMPANION OR LINK	IN THIS SERIES
Shaykh Tahir Jalaluddin	Book 48 — companion to Cairo; al-Imam; Madrasah al-Masyhur.
Shaykh Muhammad ‘Abduh	Book 50 — whose lectures al-Hadi attended in Cairo.
Tok Kenali and Pengasuh	Book 46 — a religious magazine in Kelantan.
Hamka	Book 47 — Muslim novelist and journalist in Indonesia.

Companionship in the struggle for knowledge is ***a strength***. Each figure contributed his field: astronomy, literature, education and journalism.

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CONVEY AND TEACH

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3461

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو عَاصِمٍ الضَّحَّاكُ بْنُ مَخْلَدٍ، أَخْبَرَنَا الأَوْزَاعِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا حَسَّانُ بْنُ عَطِيَّةَ، عَنْ أَبِي كَبْشَةَ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو، أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «بَلِّغُوا عَنِّي وَلَوْ آيَةً، وَحَدِّثُوا عَنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَلاَ حَرَجَ، وَمَنْ كَذَبَ عَلَيَّ مُتَعَمِّدًا فَلْيَتَبَوَّأْ مَقْعَدَهُ مِنَ النَّارِ».

TRANSLATION:

'Abdullah ibn 'Amr رضى الله عنهما reported that the Prophet ﷺ said: **"Convey from me, even if it is a single verse. And narrate from the Children of Israel, there is no harm (in it). And whoever lies about me deliberately, let him take his seat in the Fire."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Abu 'Asim ad-Dahhak ibn Makhlad, from al-Awza'i, from Hassan ibn 'Atiyyah, from Abu Kabshah as-Saluli, from 'Abdullah ibn 'Amr رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of the Prophets, Hadith No. 3461.

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:3461

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Through his magazines and newspaper, Syed Syeikh al-Hadi conveyed knowledge to ***thousands of readers*** across the Malay world.

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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

HIS VIEWS AND FAMILY

According to Wikipedia, in his later years Syed Syeikh al-Hadi ***supported Anglo-Malay schools***, so that Malay children would master modern knowledge. His son, ***Syed Alwi al-Hadi*** (born 1892), later became one of ***the founders of UMNO***.

SURAH AN-NISA' 4:1

يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلنَّاسُ ٱتَّقُواْ رَبَّكُمُ ٱلَّذِى خَلَقَكُم مِّن نَّفْسٍ وَٰحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا
زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَآءً ۚ وَٱتَّقُواْ ٱللَّهَ ٱلَّذِى تَسَآءَلُونَ بِهِۦ
وَٱلْأَرْحَامَ ۚ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا ١

O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear Allah, through whom you ask one another, and the wombs. Indeed Allah is ever, over you, an Observer.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/4:1

Allah ***"dispersed from both of them many men and women"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 4:1.

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FAMILY MEMBER	NOTES
Sharifah Syeikhun	Wife (married 1891).
Syed Alwi (b. 1892)	Son; later one of the founders of UMNO.
Aisyah (b. 1897) and Umhani (b. 1898)	Daughters.
Maryam (b. 1903)	Daughter from his second marriage in Singapore.

Source: Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syed_Sheikh_al-Hadi

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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

STATEMENTS AND THEIR STATUS

STATEMENT	STATUS
He was born on 22 November 1867.	Given by Wikipedia; Britannica gives 9 November 1867.
Madrasah al-Masyhur was founded in 1919.	Wikipedia gives 1916; 1919 is when he handed over its management.
Faridah Hanom appeared in 1926.	Given by Britannica; Wikipedia gives 1925/26.
Faridah Hanom is the first Malay novel.	A popular view; scholars still discuss it.
Al-Ikhwan ended in 1930.	Britannica; Wikipedia gives December 1931.
He studied at al-Azhar.	Not stated by Wikipedia; he attended ‘Abduh’s lectures in Cairo.

REFLECTION — HONOURING WITHOUT EXAGGERATING

A journalist teaches us to ***check the news*** (49:6). We honour Syed Syeikh al-Hadi by being ***honest*** about differences between sources.

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HIS DEATH AND LEGACY

Syed Syeikh al-Hadi died in ***Jelutong, Penang***, on ***20 February 1934 CE***, aged 66, and was buried in ***the cemetery of the Jelutong Friday mosque***. His bungalow on ***Jalan Jelutong*** still stands, according to Penang Travel Tips.

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

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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

A LEGACY FOR US

LEGACY	LESSON FOR US
al-Imam, al-Ikhwan, Saudara	The media can be a tool of reform.
Madrasah al-Iqbal, al-Hadi, al-Masyhur	Education is the path of the Ummah’s progress.
Hikayat Faridah Hanom	Literature can convey values.
‘Alam Perempuan	Women have the right to education.
Ugama Islam dan ‘Akal	Islam honours reason.

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LESSONS AND CONCLUSION

LESSONS FROM THIS EBOOK

First: Value the pen and what is written (68:1; 96:4).

Second: Ask for more knowledge (20:114; Sahih Muslim 2699).

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

Fourth: Investigate news before spreading it (49:6; Sahih al-Bukhari 6094).

Fifth: Open the way of education for all (58:11).

Sixth: Argue in the best way (16:125).

Seventh: Use the reason Allah has given (8:22; 2:269).

Eighth: Good stories educate the soul (12:3).

Ninth: Men and women are promised the same reward (33:35; 16:97; Sahih al-Bukhari 101).

Tenth: Write what is good or remain silent (Sahih al-Bukhari 6018).

Eleventh: Cooperate in the struggle for knowledge (Sahih al-Bukhari 13).

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

CONCLUSION

Syed Syeikh al-Hadi used ***the pen, the printing press and the madrasah*** to build up the Malay Ummah. The next book of **Tracing the Scholars of Islam**, in sha' Allah, will tell the story of ***Shaykh Muhammad 'Abduh***, the Egyptian scholar whose lectures al-Hadi and Shaykh Tahir once attended in Cairo. And Allah knows best.

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GLOSSARY AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

GLOSSARY

TERM	MEANING
Straits Settlements	Malacca, Penang and Singapore under British rule.
Kaum Muda	The reform (islah) group in the Malay world.
Islah	Reform; returning to the Qur'an and Sunnah.
Madrasah	A religious school with classes and a syllabus.
Novel	A long work of prose fiction.
Tarboosh	A red brimless cap with a tassel, worn in Egypt and Turkey.
Jawi	Malay written in Arabic script.
Publisher	A person or company that prints and distributes reading matter.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why does Allah swear by the pen (68:1)?

2. How does verse 49:6 guide journalists?

3. What is the difference between the traditional pondok and the Kaum Muda madrasah?

4. Why did Syed Syeikh al-Hadi write novels?

5. What is Islam's view of women's education according to 33:35 and Sahih al-Bukhari 101?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Choose a news item today and check its source, following the guidance of verse 49:6.

Activity 2: Write a short story that carries one Islamic value, as al-Hadi did in his novels.

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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 رضى 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 رضى 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 رضى الله عنه .

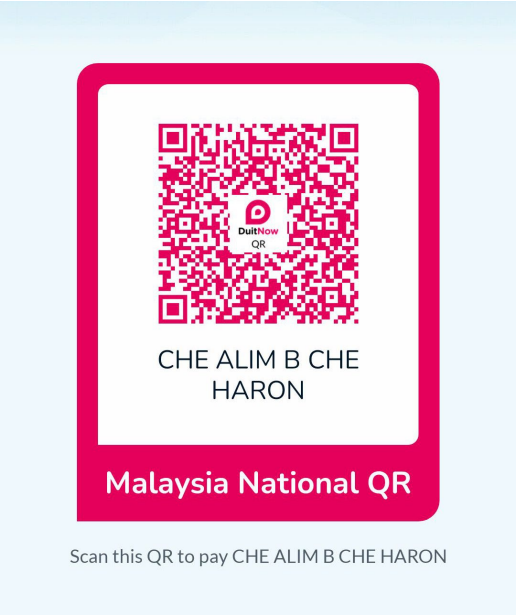
REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Wills (Kitab al-Wasiyyah), chapter on the reward that reaches a person after his death, Hadith No. 1631.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

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

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