

ISLAMIC GLOBAL CALENDAR, THE CONTRIBUTION OF MUHAMMADIYAH TO THE WORLD CIVILIZATION

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ABSTRACT

Muhammadiyah have been giving many contributions to the country. Such as education, health, religion, and social. Some people give a critique to Muhammadiyah which is this organization only move in Indonesia. In fact, Muhammadiyah is one of the biggest organizations in the world with Nahdlatul Ulama (NU). So, Muhammadiyah must give something to the world more than now. Therefore, since the 45th conference in Malang, East Java at 2005, Muhammadiyah made a strategically statement. It's called core thought of second centenary. One of the points said that Muhammadiyah must make some great step to the world civilization. After that, Muhammadiyah started to create a brilliant idea to enlighten the worldwide of Islam. From 2005 until now some good decision that is from Muhammadiyah thought can be applied by Moslem world. One of them is the phenomenal idea, the Islamic global calendar. There are many interconnections between science and sharia in this case. This is a realization of step up Islam.

Keywords: *Calendar; Muhammadiyah; World; Civilization*

A. Introduction

Every the end of Sya'ban, Ramadan, and Dzu al-Qa'dah almost Moslem overseas confuse about the time to start fasting, Idul Fitri, and Idul Adha. There are some methods to decide the Islamic holy days. *Rukyat al-hilal* (see the new moon directly), *hisab* (calculate the crescent height), *Aboge* (a group of Islamic Javanese with ancient lunar), and see the sea wave (used by an-Nadzir community).

The primary problem about this is calendar. Until now there isn't an Islamic global calendar that unites the Moslem around the world. In fact, Islam is 1407 years old. This is a result if we calculate form the born of Islam in 609 AD when the Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH) got God's Book (al-Quran) at Hira' Cave. Islam has many civilizations but not the calendar. Please compare with the other religions. Christian has Anno Domino Calendar. Konghucu has Chinese lunar. Hindu with Çaka Calendar. Also Inca Tribe in Peru and Aztec Tribe in Mexico, all of them have the specific calendar.

B. The Research Problems

1. What are Muhammadiyah efforts to make a change in the world civilization?
2. How is the concept of science interconnection in Islamic Global Calendar from Muhammadiyah idea?

C. The Prospective

1. To know Muhammadiyah efforts to make a change in the world civilization.
2. To discuss the concept of science interconnection in Islamic Global Calendar from Muhammadiyah idea.

D. The Discussion

Islamic or hijri calendar is not popular if it is compared with Gregorian. Even, if there is someone try to ask his friends that when Islamic year at this moment, majority can't mention it correctly. What a pity about this reality. In fact, Islam is the biggest religion in Indonesia. And the second one in the world, after Christian.

Maybe, Islam is the only one big civilization which doesn't have the exact system of calendar. Almost people in the world use Christian one. Moslems around the world have accorded to start the first year calculation and the months raw every year. But the Moslems still debated about the method to decide the first date every month. Because the way to count the date is different, so the first one every month also not same.

The meaning of Islamic global calendar is a lunar system that has a date in a day overseas. It can be used as scheduling standard and timing management. Both worship activities (fasting, zakat, Idul Fitri, and pilgrim) or civil one. Such as birth data, marriage, trading, education, and public administration (Muzakkir, 2015: 45).

Muhammadiyah has a great expectation. They want unite the Islamic calendar that is applied globally. According the sharia and science, it can be realized. Muhammadiyah efforts to create Islamic (hijriah) calendar have been started when organized the international conference in 2007.

This organization thinks that an effective idea must be exist. That is the reasons why Muhammadiyah choose calendar Hijri unite globally or internationally. When the

calendar applied, it also is used in Indonesia exactly. But, if there is Islamic calendar unite in Indonesia; it's not sure that will be obeyed in the world.

According to Muhammadiyah, *hisab* is *ta'aqquli* (method) not *ta'abbudi* (worship). In *ushul fiqh*, *al-ta'abbud* means

التعبد مالا يعقل معناه على الخصوص

The translation: "Al-Ta'abbud is someone that the meaning doesn't need a special logic description" (Abbas, 2009: 22).

So, *hisab* as a method to decide the Islamic global calendar is include in *ta'aqquli*. It combines between logic and sharia. In cases that there are no clear borders from sharia, human brain can be used to describe the epistemology. *Ta'aqquli* also often mentioned as *ma'quulat al-ma'na*. The rules that can be knew the law reason and *hikmah* of sharia by logical considerate.

Since 1914, Muhammadiyah have been used *hisab* method. While the Indonesia government especially Ministry of Religion Affair still use the conventional one, *rukyyat*. This method has been leaved by the member countries of Organization Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Because they think that the method isn't relevant with science and technology.

Muhammadiyah have been a pioneer of international summit to realize Islamic global calendar. International symposium with the title, "International Islamic Calendar Unification Effort" at 4 – 6 September 2007 that held by Muhammadiyah not for judge but to search the information from any scientist about this issue that thought for more times. This historical moment must be appreciated and followed up by some department, especially *Hisab Rukyyat* Council of Religion Affair Ministry Republic of Indonesia.

Not only campaign the necessary of Islamic global calendar and the principle of *falak* science or astronomy to their member, but Muhammadiyah also must often communicate to the government and the mass organization especially NU actively. They can use the scientific forum or the existing *falak* institution. All of the Muhammadiyah society would do this, so the Islam world can influence even in a small number (Mukarram, 2015: 11).

Muhammadiyah want reduce the different at Arafat Day, early of Ramadan, Idul Fitri, and Idul Adha. They attempt to unite the hijri international calendar according to

Congress decision at Makassar, South Celebes. Because this was congress accord, therefore as soon as possible Muhammadiyah will do it. The effort to unite hijri calendar not only for Indonesia, but also for all the world civilization (Ilyas, 2015: 29).

At Saturday until Monday, 28 – 30 May 2016 AD (21 – 23 Sya’ban 1437 After Hijri/AH) held Uluslararası Hijri Takvim Birliği Kongresi (Hijri International Calendar Unite Congress) in Istanbul, Turkey. There are 150 congress participants from 60 countries include the electable participant and no one. Indonesia delegated three persons. They are Muhyiddin Junaidi, head of International Relationship Commission of the Indonesia Scholar Council. Also Hendro Setyanto, an astronomer from NU. The last one is Prof Syamsul Anwar, head of the Fatwa and Research Council of Muhammadiyah Central Board (Anwar, 2016: 44).

This Turkey Congress 2016 Agreement is in line with The 47th Muhammadiyah Congress decision in Makassar at 2015. It said, “According to the reality Muhammadiyah thought that needed to realize unification of hijri calendar that applied internationally”. Therefore, Muhammadiyah make an overlap above Istanbul in case create an accord to realize Islamic global calendar. Indeed, with this Turkey agreement Muhammadiyah have colleague and also the stronger law to do their decision (Anwar, 2016: 49).

Lukman Hakim, Minister of Religion Affairs agreed with Muhammadiyah step to unite *ummah* in Indonesia and the world. It is very urgent and strategic. Not only discussion, but Muhammadiyah also must make an effective socialization. Lukman also appreciated Muhammadiyah effort to realize Islamic single global calendar.

If Islamic global calendar is realized in Indonesia, there will be no debating, political issue, agitation, or disintegration in this country. The *Isbat* Court at 2011 when discussed to decide Idul Fitri was a worst precedent for Islam world especially Indonesia. Why? Because there are many bad words out from the haters of Muhammadiyah. They can’t accept *hisab* method. In fact, there is some people can see the new moon in line with Muhammadiyah decision about 1 Syawal.

Islamic global calendar is the other solution to make the country asset more efficient. In fact, when Ministry of Religion Affairs held *rukyyat* in 60 spots in Indonesia.

From Sabang until Merauke. The proses of *rukyat* spent billion rupiahs. It is not effective if compared to many Moslem still poor according to their economy.

As long as Islamic global calendar hasn't been accepted in Indonesia, maybe there will be a different again in decision to start fasting, Idul Fitri, Arafat Day, or Pilgrimage. Moslem must be smart and clever to do based on their believes. Don't forget to spread tolerance and united. This is about *ta'aqquli* not *ta'abbudi*. So, no problem if there are the differences due the calendar hasn't published to public.

Indonesia is a democratic country. This state is known globally as a community with plural culture, language, religion, and tribe. Therefore, a life with peace is real happened in Indonesia. If the government want the Indonesian fully peace long life, so they must accept the concept of Islamic global calendar. With the lunar system, Moslem in Indonesia and in the world will be united forever.

To realize Islamic global calendar, Moslems must brave to move from *rukyat* to *hisab*. The positive thing of *hisab* is more than *rukyat*. If in *hisab* system still there are some weak points so do scientific trial. Muhammadiyah must repair their best method if one day will be found the highest accuration and the objectivity (Nashir, 2011: 12).

Metamorphosis from *rukyat* to *hisab* must be recognized honestly. It isn't about *madzhab*. But it is about the reality of nature to realize unite of Islamic calendar system that impossible be created based on *rukyat*. This is also to unify the Arafat Day just for Moslem can do their worship at the real moment. Using *hisab* doesn't ignore the Prophet PBUH hadiths that instruct *rukyat*. But only strengthen one of the probably meaning and improve the epistemology. That is included all situations (Anwar, 2016: 21).

A changing from *rukyat* to *hisab* is not a thing that contra with *sunnah*. Although, it has a strong consideration between sharia and science. *Rukyat* is not a worship but a tool or method that can change from a time to another one. The Prophet PBUH order to do *rukyat* is an asking with in causalities'. In the other hand, *hisab* has some law based according to al-Quran and hadith (Anwar, 2016: 22 – 23).

Allah Almighty says at verse al-Baqarah chapter 185.

فَمَنْ شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ

The translation: “So every one of you who is present (at his home) during that month should spend it in fasting”.

Thus, let’s discuss about the problem of the meaning of *syahadah* (the gerund of *syahida*). Al-Rahib al-Ashfahani, the scientist of al-Quran lexicology declared that *syahadah* is

علم حصل بمشاهدة بصيرة أو بصر

“The knowledge that is got by *bashirah* or *bashar*”. *Bashirah* and *bashar* are the potential of heart to sense. Therefore, both of them are the heart strength. According to al-A’raf chapter 179, heart and mind are same. So, the meaning of *syahadah* is learning by mind. The brain is something to get the knowledge. Thus, the process to see the crescent (*hilal*) by *syahadah* is in line with observes the new moon by science (Harun, 2015: 44).

In fact, Ibnu Manzhur al-Mashri in *Lisan al-Arab* and strenghten by Ibnu Sayyidih opinion via Wahid (2011: 20) said that *rukyyat* means النظر بالعين و القلب (seeing something by eyes and heart/mind). This is the argumentation to translate a hadith:

عن ابن عمر رضي الله عنهما قال : قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه و سلم : صوموا لرؤيته و أفطروا لرؤيته, فإن غم عليكم فاقدروا له (رواه البخارى و مسلم و اللفظ للبخارى)

The translation: “From Ibnu Umar May Allah Please Both of Them that he said: Rasulullah PBUH said: Do the fasting by seeing or calculating the new moon and celebrate Idul Fitri by seeing or calculating the new one. If the crescent covered your sight so do some estimation”.

A Moslem must give an attention to this hadith:

حدثنا سعيد بن عمرو أنه سمع ابن عمر رضي الله عنهما عن النبي صلى الله عليه و سلم أنه قال : إنا أمة أمية لا نكتب و لانحسب , الشهر هكذا وهكذا يعني مرة تسعة وعشرين و مرة ثلاثين (رواه البخاري)

The translation: “Said ibn Amru told us that he heard Ibnu Umar May Allah Please Both of Them from the Prophet PBUH said: We were *ummi* people that couldn’t write and also counted the day’s quantity of a month like this and like this. Once twenty nine days and once thirty days”.

This is the rule and also the reason to use *hisab* method to decide the starting of Lunar Calendar. Because in the Prophet PBUH era, there wasn’t a science to make it. Thus, the Prophet PBUH hadith shouldn’t be understood textually. So, there is an interconnection between sharia and science in this case. It also the ways to reach Islam Kaffah (Totally).

Muhammadiyah maybe isn't a primary player in Moslem world about Islamic calendar. But in Indonesia, they are the single fighter. There are many treats from the other organization or personal. Muhammadiyah sure that their idea isn't for their self but this is for the world. Islamic global calendar can contribute to enrich the world civilization. Muhammadiyah just call the Moslem around the world to realize Islamic calendar integrated by academic work honestly and supported by transparent political power also responsible.

A good almanac system is a calendar that can be given an accurate and exact time schedule for a long time. So, it can be obeyed a long time ago. However, if the calendar cannot be given an accurate and exact time schedule for a long time is a worst system. It is also incompatible as a structural and the main of the calendar (Anwar, 2011: 51).

Tanudirdjo (2007: 7) said that a culture can reach a civilization if fulfill 11 requisites. They are settled minimum 7.000 citizens; have art worker and trader groups; have military troops; there are patrician groups; farmers groups; can build monumental buildings; know numeric and alphabetic; understand about mathematic, measure tool, and astronomy; can create a beautiful art; know the long distance trade; and have central government also social organization. If Islamic global calendar really realize, it can fulfill those terms. And also enrich the world civilization. Because calendar is about numeric and astronomy, the 7th and 8th requisites.

Allah Almighty says in Yasin 37 – 40 that can be a law considering creating Islamic global calendar.

وَأَيُّهُ لَّهُمُ اللَّيْلُ نَسْلَخُ مِنْهُ النَّهَارَ فَإِذَا هُم مُّظْلَمُونَ وَالشَّمْسُ تَجْرِي لِمُسْتَقَرٍّ لَهَا ذَلِكَ تَقْدِيرُ الْعَزِيزِ الْعَلِيمِ وَالْقَمَرَ قَدَرْنَا مَنَازِلَ حَتَّىٰ عَادَ كَالْعُرْجُونِ الْقَدِيمِ لَا الشَّمْسُ يَنْبَغِي لَهَا أَنْ تُدْرِكَ الْقَمَرَ وَلَا اللَّيْلُ سَابِقُ النَّهَارِ وَكُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ

The translation: “And a Sign for them is the Night. We withdraw therefrom the Day, and behold they are plunged in darkness. And the sun runs his course for a period determined for him. That is the decree of (Him), the Exalted in Might, the All-Knowing. And the Moon We have measured for her mansions (to traverse) till she returns like the old (and withered) lower part of a date-stalk. It is not permitted to the Sun to catch up the Moon, nor can the Night outstrip the Day: Each (just) swims along in (its own) orbit (according to Law).”

Muhammadiyah certainly sure that Islamic global calendar is the implementation of Yunus 5.

هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ ضِيَاءً وَالْقَمَرَ نُورًا وَقَدَّرَهُ مَنَازِلَ لِتَعْلَمُوا عَدَدَ السِّنِينَ وَالْحِسَابَ مَا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ ذَٰلِكَ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ يُفَصِّلُ الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ

The Translation: “It is He who made the sun to be a shining glory and the moon to be a light (of beauty), and measured out stages for her; that ye might know the number of years and the count (of time). Nowise did Allah create this but in truth and righteousness. (Thus) doth He explain His Signs in detail, for those who understand.”

They also use ar-Rahman 5 to legitimate their opinion about significance of Islamic global calendar.

الشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ بِحُسْبَانٍ

The Translation: “The sun and the moon follow courses (exactly) computed”.

People usually use full moon to calculate the new crescent. This is based on al-Insyiqaq 18.

وَالْقَمَرَ إِذَا اتَّسَقَ

The Translation: “And the Moon in her fullness”.

If discuss about the month, Moslem must see at-Taubah 36.

إِنَّ عِدَّةَ الشُّهُورِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ اثْنَا عَشَرَ شَهْرًا فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ يَوْمَ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ مِنْهَا أَرْبَعَةٌ حُرْمٌ

The Translation: “The number of months in the sight of Allah is twelve (in a year). So ordained by Him the day He created the heavens and the earth; of them four are sacred”.

This is not a problem between Muhammadiyah and NU or the government. Because there is a community that also different with Ministry of Religion Affair. They are Hizbut Tahrir that use global *rukyat*. Commonly, if more to the west so the crescent is higher and probably to see the new moon. Therefore, global *hisab* almost in line with *wujud al-hilal* criteria if there is a difference in Indonesia (Purwanto, 2011: 30).

If Islamic global calendar applied, there will be no friction between *hisab hakiki wujudul hilal* versus *imkanurrukyat*. Two mainstream methods in Indonesia. Not only have that, but also aboge system and sea surfaced leveling method. Political sentiment

also will be deleted. With Islamic global calendar, Moslem can realize Islam Kaffah. Totally Islam. Not a half, but one hundred percent. In Indonesia, Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, America. In overall the world.

- Treat

There is a declaration mentioned that *hisab hakiki wujud al-hilal* theory was an ancient one and leaved by astronomer also some chapter in al-Quran not related with the condition. This is needed to be supported by reliable historical data. So it isn't ignored the oldest theory that until now still recognized by modern astronomer. Such as, phases of the moon theory that developed by al-Biruni. Therefore, it is needed a smart brain to go out from subjective assessment more and more. Maybe someone dislike *hisab*, in fact, it is the best for create the Islamic calendar. And maybe someone likes new moon visibility. In fact, it is not good to create the same one (Azhari, 2011: 11). Let's check al-Baqarah chapter 216.

وَعَسَىٰ أَنْ تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ وَعَسَىٰ أَنْ تُحِبُّوا شَيْئًا وَهُوَ شَرٌّ لَّكُمْ

The Translation: "But it is possible that you dislike a thing which is good for you, and that you love a thing which is bad for you."

Inspite, Thomas Djamaluddin (2011: 48 – 49) a professor of astronomic-astrophysics research of Religion Affair Ministry said that *wujud al-hilal* is public disunite so must be reformed. As a science product, a theory can be named ancient because replaced by the new one that more useful. He declared that Muhammadiyah must lose for public. If it is done by Muhammadiyah so many big impact for the unity.

E. The Conclusion

Islamic global calendar is an urgent agenda. In Indonesia, Muhammadiyah is one of single player that make an effort to reach the lunar system. They want to make a change in the world civilization. The calendar concept is an integration of sharia and science. So, Islam Kaffah, the goal of all can be applied overseas. This isn't Muhammadiyah or not. But this is about Moslem brotherhood.

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