

**ISLAM AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE HIJRI NEW YEAR:
TRADITIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES**

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Abstrak

Artikel ini membahas mengenai perayaan Tahun Baru Islam, atau Tahun Baru Hijriah. Tahun Baru Islam adalah hari yang penting bagi umat Muslim karena menandai peristiwa penting dalam sejarah Islam, memperingati migrasi Nabi Muhammad (SAW) dari kota Mekah ke Madinah pada tahun 622 Masehi. Tahun Baru Islam dirayakan dengan berbagai cara di seluruh dunia berdasarkan perbedaan budaya. Misalnya, pawai obor yang diadakan di Indonesia untuk memperingati perayaan tersebut. Perayaan Tahun Baru Islam biasanya merupakan waktu untuk berkumpul bersama keluarga di Mesir. Di masjid-masjid di Uni Emirat Arab, umat Muslim melaksanakan shalat berjamaah sebelum mempersembahkan hewan kurban, seperti kambing, domba, atau kuda.

Kata kunci: 1 Muharram, Tahun Baru Islam, tradisi, sejarah.

Abstract

This article is about the celebration of the Islamic New Year, or Hijri New Year. The Islamic New Year is an important day for Muslims as it marks an important event in Islamic history, commemorating the migration of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) from the city of Mecca to Medina in 622 AD. Islamic New Year is celebrated in different ways around the world based on cultural differences. For example, torchlight parades are held in Indonesia to

commemorate the celebration. Islamic New Year celebrations are usually a time for family gatherings in Egypt. At mosques in the United Arab Emirates, Muslims perform congregational prayers before offering sacrificial animals, such as goats, sheep or horses.

Keywords: 1 Muharram, Islamic New Year, tradition, history.

INTRODUCTION

In terminology, there are different formulations of Islam. According to Harun Nasution, Islam is a religion whose teachings were revealed by God to the community through the Prophet Muhammad SAW as a Messenger. Islam essentially carries teachings that do not only recognize one aspect, but regarding various aspects of human life. Meanwhile, according to Maulana Muhammad Ali, Islam is a religion of peace; and its two main teachings, namely the oneness of God and the unity or brotherhood of mankind, are clear evidence that Islam is in harmony with its name, Islam is not only said to be the religion of all Prophets, as mentioned in several verses of the holy Qur'an, but also in everything that is unconsciously subject to the laws of God, which we see in the universe.

The history of the determination of the beginning of the Islamic new year or the beginning of the Hijriyah calendar refers to the hijrah of the Prophet Muhammad SAW from Makkah to Medina. The determination of the month of Muharram as the first month in the Qamariyah calendar was determined by Umar bin Khattab who was the second caliph after Abu Bakar. This determination is then used as the starting point of the calendar for Muslims with the name Hijri Year. The Islamic calendar is not only a means of measuring time, but also a symbol of Muslim identity and heritage. The use of the Hijri calendar as the starting moment of the Islamic calendar was the establishment of the year 622 AD (the hijrah of the Prophet Muhammad SAW) as the first year of the Hijri calendar. At that time it was the 17th year after the hijrah or 3-4 years during the leadership of Caliph Umar bin Khattab. The meaning of the Hijriyah new year begins with the hijrah of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. During the time of the Apostle of Allah, the hijrah event was carried out as a da'wah strategy and responded to the situation and conditions that were not conducive to the people of Mecca. Hijrah itself is defined as a struggle to leave bad things for the better. And, now the hijrah event is interpreted as learning the value of goodness for oneself, such as daring to leave something bad that harms oneself and switch to something good.

Muharram is the first month of the Hijri calendar. Muharram is one of the most honored months in Islam. The glory of Muharram is referred to in the Quran as Asyhurul Hurum along with Dhulqad'a, Dhulhijjah, and Rajab. This is also explained in the words of the Prophet Muhammad SAW,

حُرْمٌ ، أَرْبَعَةٌ شَهْرًا ، مِنْهَا عَشْرٌ أَتْنَا وَالْأَرْضَ ، السَّنَةُ السَّمَوَاتِ خَلَقَ يَوْمَ كَهَيْئَتِهِ اسْتَدَارَ قَدِ الزَّمَانِ
وَشَعْبَانَ جُمَادَى بَيْنَ الَّذِي مُضَرَ وَرَجَبُ وَالْمَحَمُّ ، الْحِجَّةِ وَذُو الْقَعْدَةِ ذُو مَنَوَالِيَّاتٍ ثَلَاثَةٌ

Meaning: "The age revolves like the day Allah created the heavens and the earth. A year consists of 12 months, among which are the 4 Haram months, three consecutive months, Dhulqaidah, Dhul-Hijjah, and Muharram. As for Rajab, which is also the month of the Mudhr, it is between Jumadil Akhir and Sha'ban," (HR Bukhari Muslim).

RESEARCH METHODS

In this research entitled Islamic New Year Celebrations in Various Countries, we used qualitative methods with secondary data sources. This research aims to describe the traditions of the Islamic New Year in various countries so that they are better known. The second is to identify the symbolic meanings and values in each celebration tradition.

DISCUSSION

Muslims celebrate the Islamic New Year in different countries in different ways, such as:

1. Indonesia

Indonesia is one of the countries with the largest Muslim population in the world. Therefore, Indonesia has a variety of traditions regarding celebrations, which is:

a) Bubur Suro

One of the traditions practiced by Javanese tribes in Indonesia when celebrating the Islamic New Year is distributing bubur suro. This is a symbol of gratitude to the Almighty God for the blessings and sustenance obtained. The bubur suro is served with various side dishes, each of which has a different meaning. Javanese bubur suro consists of white porridge, black soybeans, free-range chicken eggs, coconut flakes, and degan salad. Each side dish in bubur suro has a different meaning. Julie Indah Rini, a writer, writes that the white porridge itself symbolizes the purity of the way of life. The fried black soybeans show a character that is mituhu, which in Javanese means trust and live, or always be loyal and do good by obeying the advice of elders. The sliced free-range chicken eggs also symbolize something different. This side dish is symbolic of a life of continuity and community. Serundeng kelapa itself is a clear indication that we should all follow the philosophy of the coconut tree. The point is to be adaptable and useful for the community. Not to forget there is also a degan salad which is a symbol that humans must live life with enthusiasm and earnestness. Meanwhile, seven kinds of nuts symbolize the number of days in a week. eating Suro porridge studded with seven kinds of nuts is a prayer to always be given blessings and smoothness in life every day.

b) Torchlight Parade

One of the traditions of celebrating the Islamic New Year in Indonesia is the torchlight parade. To add to the excitement of the torchlight parade, they also play rabana and drum instruments. The 1 Muharram torchlight parade can also be followed by various groups, ranging from children, teenagers, adults, to the elderly. The 1 Muharram torchlight parade in the context of the Hijri New Year is a form of broadcast to welcome the new year, so that this Islamic New Year is no less interesting than the Gregorian New Year. The meaning of the torch parade in this activity symbolizes the light that illuminates the path to the new year. Torches also mean guidance and direction in living a better life. Also, torchbearers will express gratitude for the blessings given by God throughout the year and hope that the next year will still be blessed. The torchlight parade is not done alone, but together. People who participate in this activity will walk hand in hand. This can certainly be a way to strengthen togetherness among Muslims, even the entire community. This tradition can also teach other values, such as solidarity, mutual support, and unity. Sholawat and praise to Allah SWT chanted during the 1 Muharram torchlight parade also shows gratitude for welcoming the Islamic New Year or Hijri New Year. In addition, the torchlight parade is often used as a place to establish friendship among people.

c) Tapa Bisu

The next tradition to welcome and commemorate the Islamic New Year is also the Tapa Bisu tradition for people in the Yogyakarta area. This Tapa Bisu tradition is usually held by the community on Muharram 1. The Tapa Bisu tradition is a ritual around the palace fortress. The history of this ritual was initiated by the Paguyuban Abdi Dalem Keprajan Keraton Yogyakarta. The distance traveled by topo bisu is approximately 4 kilometers. Starting from Pancaniti Ward, Rotowijayan Street, then passing Kauman Street, Agus Salim Street, then Wahid Hasyim Street, Suryowijatan, then heading to Beteng Kulon Corner, MT Haryono Street, Beteng Wetan Corner, Brigjen Katamso Street, Mrs. Ruswo Street, until it ends at Yogyakarta North Square. The topo tradition is also a way of self-introspection and reflection. Silence during the procession is the right moment to get closer to God Almighty while asking for protection and safety for the coming new year. Not only the prohibition of speaking, but the participants of tapa bisu are also prohibited from doing several other things. Namely eating, drinking, and smoking. Silence must always be maintained as a symbol of concern for all the deeds that have been done during the past year.

2. United Arab Emirates

In the United Arab Emirates, the Islamic New Year is a time for self-reflection and muhasabah. It is a time for Muslims to reflect on the mistakes of the past year, ask for forgiveness for them, and make plans for the future. The event is characterized by various religious activities, including special prayers, Qur'anic recitations, and sermons in mosques. The atmosphere is one of spiritual renewal, where individuals gather to increase their faith and commitment to the principles of Islam.

The United Arab Emirates, known for its rich and diverse culture, integrates the Islamic New Year into its broader cultural framework. As a national holiday, families can celebrate the day by coming together. Public services, schools, and businesses close for the day, allowing people to participate in religious celebrations and spend time with loved ones.

The Islamic New Year in the UAE is characterized by solemnity and a spirit of togetherness. Unlike other celebrations, the new year is not celebrated with fireworks or lavish festivities. Instead, it is characterized by a quiet and contemplative atmosphere. Here are some of the traditions of the Islamic New Year in the UAE:

1. Mosque Activities: Mosques across the United Arab Emirates held special prayers and sermons focusing on the importance of Hijra and the lessons learned. Imams delivered sermons emphasizing the importance of obedience, patience, and perseverance.
2. Family gatherings: Families gather to eat and spend time together. This is a time to strengthen family bonds and express gratitude for the blessings of the past year.
3. Charity and Good Deeds: Many Muslims in the UAE do good deeds during the Islamic New Year. They give alms to people in need, help neighbors, and volunteer.
4. Educational Programs: Various institutions and organizations organize educational programs, lectures, and seminars to provide people with knowledge about the history and meaning of Hijrah. These programs aim to deepen the understanding of Islamic heritage and values.
5. Self-Reflection: Everyone takes time to reflect on their spirituality. People make new plans and goals for the coming year, focusing on self-reflection and developing obedience.

3. Brunei Darussalam

In Brunei Darussalam, the celebration of the Islamic New Year is identified with cleanliness. The tradition of cleaning mosques and shrines is a form of respect for the sacred places. The Brunei government often holds official ceremonies at the national level to commemorate the Islamic New Year. These events are usually held at large mosques such as the Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque or the Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque, and are attended by members of the royal family, government officials, and the general public. Other activities include fasting, prayers, and pilgrimages to the graves of saints. Apart from Ramadan, the best month to fast is Muharram.

رَمَضَانَ بَعْدَ الصِّيَامِ أَفْضَلُ: وَسَلَّمَ عَلَيْهِ اللَّهُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ رَسُولُ قَالَ: قَالَ عَنْهُ اللَّهُ رَضِيَ هُرَيْرَةَ أَبِي عَنْ (مسلم رواه). اللَّيْلِ صَلَاةُ الْفَرِيضَةِ بَعْدَ الصَّلَاةِ وَأَفْضَلُ الْمُحَرَّمَ، اللَّهُ شَهْرُ

Meaning: "It was narrated from Abu Hurairah (ra) that he said: 'The Messenger of Allah (saw) said: 'The best fast after Ramadan is the fast in the month of Allah, Muharram, and the best prayer after the obligatory prayer is the night prayer.'" (HR Muslim).

The community also honors people who have made outstanding contributions to the good and progress of Islam. In the evening, they will gather at the mosque to pray and eat together. Overall, the celebration of Islamic New Year in Brunei Darussalam is deeply rooted in religious practice, community service, and reflection. The focus is on prayer, almsgiving, and renewing commitment to Islamic values, with an emphasis on unity and gratitude for the blessings received in the previous year.

CONCLUSIONS

We conclude that the celebration of the Islamic New Year, marked by the month of Muharram, refers to the Prophet Muhammad's hijra from Mecca to Medina, the starting point of the Hijri calendar. This event has a deep spiritual meaning, symbolizing the struggle towards a better life.

It is celebrated in different ways in each country but still has the same meaning. Such as unity, gratitude, self-muhasabah, and increasing piety for Muslims.

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