

FROM THE STARS TO THE SOUL: ISLAMIC INSIGHTS ON ZODIAC SIGNS

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Abstrak

Pada zaman sekarang dimana teknologi sudah sangat berkembang, sosial media menjadi sumber segala informasi. Kepercayaan terhadap ramalan zodiak atau ramalan rasi bintang kerap berkembang mengikuti perkembangan teknologi dan sumber informasi, terutama pada kalangan anak muda generasi Z. Banyak sekali anak-anak muda yang terpengaruh dan mempercayainya terlepas abstraknya ramalan yang dipercayai. Kepercayaan terhadap zodiak ini kerap membuat mereka mempercayai bahwa takdir mereka sudah diterapkan berdasarkan zodiak dan bukan karena takdir yang telah Allah Swt. tetapkan. Karena itu, kepercayaan terhadap zodiak ini dikhawatirkan sebagai perbuatan syirik yang menurut Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia adalah penyekutuan Allah Swt. dengan yang lain, misalnya pengakuan kemampuan ilmu daripada kemampuan dan kekuatan Allah, pengabdian selain kepada Allah Ta'ala dengan menyembah patung, tempat keramat, dan kuburan, dan kepercayaan terhadap keampuhan peninggalan nenek moyang yang diyakini akan menentukan dan mempengaruhi jalan kehidupan. Maka dari itu, penelitian ini dibuat untuk membahas pandangan Islam mengenai hukum mempercayai zodiak berdasarkan hadis, Al-Qur'an, dan pendapat para ahli ulama. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah studi literatur yaitu melakukan penelitian dengan cara mengumpulkan referensi yang berupa penelitian-penelitian terdahulu yang membahas topik terkait dan mengambil kesimpulan akhirnya.

Kata Kunci : Zodiak, Syirik, Takdir, Ramalan, Hukum, Islam.

Abstract

In today's era where technology has advanced significantly, social media has become the source of all information. Belief in zodiac or constellation predictions often evolves along with advancements in technology and information sources, especially among Generation Z youth. Many young people are influenced by and believe in these predictions despite their abstract nature. Belief in this zodiac often leads them to think that their fate has been predetermined based on their zodiac and not because of the fate that Allah Swt. has set. Therefore, belief in zodiac is feared to be an act of shirk, which according to the Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language is the association of Allah Swt. with others, such as acknowledging the power of knowledge over the power and strength of Allah, devotion to other than Allah Ta'ala by worshiping idols, sacred places, and graves, and belief in the efficacy of ancestral relics that are believed to determine and influence the course of life. Therefore, this research is conducted to discuss the Islamic perspective on the law of believing in the zodiac based on hadith, the Qur'an, and the opinions of expert scholars. The research method used is study literature, which involves conducting research by gathering references in the form of previous studies that discuss related topics and drawing final conclusions.

Keyword: Zodiac, Shirk, Destiny, Prediction, Law, Islam.

INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, the belief in prophecy has been around for a long time and is recorded in the nation's history, such as the famous Jayabaya prophecy delivered by Sri Aji Jayabaya, a king from the kingdom of Kediri (1135-1157 AD) who discussed the future of the island of Java (Indonesia) from all aspects. This gives a clear picture that predictions have long been recognized by the Indonesian people, and this belief has been inherited by the nation's children consciously and unconsciously (Widiastuti, 2023).

Divination in general is an attempt to gain knowledge of a question or situation through occult means or certain rituals. Divination is also used to determine the future through means that are generally viewed as irrational. In the context of astrology, divination is often done by interpreting the positions of celestial bodies to provide insight into a person's life, character, or future events. There are various types of divination, one of which is zodiac divination, also known as star divination.

Zodiac in English is called zodiac, derived from the Greek word Zoodiacos Cyclos which means animal circle. The zodiac began to be used in Ancient Greek civilization in the 3rd century BC which was introduced by an astrologer, Eudoxus. At that time, astrologers worked to predict good fortune, wars, and political campaigns so that the zodiac could be easily spread to the West and Asia. (Sabrina, 2021). In astrology, each zodiac sign refers to one of the 12 zodiac constellations through which the sun passes. It is believed that a person's personality and future can be predicted using his or her zodiac sign and the positions of the planets in relation to the constellations. It is believed that a person's personality and future can be predicted using his/her zodiac sign and the positions of the planets in relation to the constellations (Rifda, 2022).

Nowadays, many people believe that each of the 12 zodiac constellations namely Aquarius, Pisces, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn has a connection in human life. This belief is not only growing among astrology enthusiasts, but it also reaches out to the general public. Many zodiac-related articles, journals, and content popping up on social media influence people to believe in it. Many feel that the zodiac can provide insights into personality, fate, and social relationships, so they use it as a guide in their daily decision-making.

In the Islamic view, zodiac science or astrology is considered a form of divination that has no scientific basis and contradicts religious teachings. Astrology attempts to link the movements of stars and planets with human fate or behavior, a practice that is considered incompatible with the concept of tawhid or the oneness of Allah. In Islam, belief in astrology is considered to violate the principles of faith because it involves predicting the future and determining fate that only Allah SWT knows.

Belief in fortune telling is a form of khurafat and shirk, namely, reading fortunes through star or zodiac predictions, finding out how their love, sustenance, luck will be in a certain year, believing in past and future predictions, this is a sin, even though Islamic teachings strictly prohibit this, but many do not understand it because they do not want to learn aqidah and get to know Islam more deeply (Salamah, 2017).

RESEARCH METHODS

The research method used is study literature, which involves conducting research by gathering references in the form of previous studies that discuss related topics and drawing final conclusions. We took some reference data analysis on zodiac signs from online websites, online research, and learning books. The data analysis conducted in this study does not focus on numerical calculations or quantities.

Based on these characteristics, this research is classified as qualitative research. This approach employs qualitative methods because the data collected explores individuals' knowledge and perceptions. Additionally, while primarily qualitative, the study incorporates some online survey results, including numerical data and percentages, in the results and discussion sections, thereby integrating a minor quantitative aspect.

According to David Williams, qualitative research is the collection of data in a natural setting, using natural methods, and conducted by people or researchers who are naturally interested.

According to Richie, qualitative research is an attempt to present the social world, and its perspective in the world. in terms of concepts, perceptual behaviors and issues about the people under study An important role and what should be studied is the concept of behavior, perceptions and issues about the people under study (Moleong, 2016).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1) Understanding What Zodiac and Zodiac Prediction Is.

According to the Great Dictionary of Indonesian, zodiac is an imaginary circle on the horizon divided into twelve astrological signs, namely Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces; constellation (star). The

zodiac is part of the science of astrology. Astrology or necromancy in KBBI is the science of astrology used to predict and know the fate of people.

The origin of the zodiac can be traced back to ancient civilizations such as the ancient Greeks and Romans, who believed that the position of celestial bodies could be used to predict the future. For them, astronomy and astrology were one and the same thing, although that is clearly no longer the case today. (Akram, 2022).

It was during this Ancient Greek period that the 12 star signs of the zodiac with which many people are likely familiar today — Aries (roughly March 21-April 19), Taurus (April 20-May 20), Gemini (May 21-June 20), Cancer (June 21-July 22), Leo (July 23-Aug. 22), Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22), Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22), Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21), Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21), Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19), Aquarius (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) and Pisces (Feb. 19 to March 20) — were set down. These Western, or tropical, zodiac signs were named after constellations and matched with dates based on the apparent relationship between their placement in the sky and the sun (Waxman, 2018).

According to the Great Dictionary of Indonesian, predictions are something that is used to see the future. There are various types of predictions and one of them is zodiac or star divination (Noor, 2024). Explains that zodiac divination is the practice of prediction or interpretation based on the position of planets, stars, and astrological signs at a particular moment, which is associated with a person's personality, fate, or events that may be experienced.

Zodiac predictions or horoscopes are considered to describe and interpret a person's personality, romantic relationships, career, health, and other aspects of life. These predictions may come out daily, weekly or monthly, and are often published in newspapers, magazines or websites. These predictions are of course not based on science and are merely traditions.

2) Factors Causing a Person to Believe in Zodiac Predictions.

The factors of a person being able to believe in zodiac predictions, which although contradictory in Islamic teaching, can be understood through several fields, both from the psychological and social fields. In fact, the reasons for each individual to believe in zodiac predictions vary according to one's psychological and social conditions, however, the most common reasons or factors can be lined up as follows.

a) Psychological and Emotional Needs

In difficult and testing times, many people question the certainty of their destiny. Zodiac predictions often provide answers to this uncertainty, although they are only predictions. However, for people who have lost hope, zodiac predictions are considered to give them peace of mind as they provide guidance about the future and direct them to choose the right decision..

b) Barnum Effect

The term Barnum Effect was first proposed by Paul Meehl in his essay entitled "Wanted-A Good CookBook" which states that the Barnum Effect is the tendency of individuals to accept personality outcomes that consist of vague statements and often have a high suitability for the general population. That is, people often see and feel that the predictions given by the

zodiac forecast are very accurate and suitable for themselves, which makes them feel personally connected to the forecast. As a result, this increases their trust in zodiac predictions.

c) Influence of Culture and Social Media

In the modern era, technology has developed rapidly and advanced many other fields including the field of communication. In the field of communication, social media is one of the instruments that combine all people in various parts of the world. This makes information easily available. Information related to zodiac predictions is also growing in demand through social media. Many content creators discuss the zodiac and its predictions and how it affects daily life and the future. And if not consumed with logical reasoning and a strong belief in the teachings of Islam.

d) Fear Of Missing Out (FoMO)

Fear of Missing Out, popularly referred to as FoMO. Defined as a pervasive apprehension that others might be having rewarding experiences from which one is absent, FoMO is characterized by the desire to stay continually connected with what others are doing (Przybylski, 2013). With the rise of content about the zodiac and its predictions, this FoMO phenomenon can be prone to occur, especially if individuals have a lack of filtering content scattered on social media. This is one of the common factors for people to believe in the zodiac and its predictions.

3) Zodiac Predictions According to Qur'an and Hadist.

a) Qur'anic Verses Regarding the Prohibition of Making Zodiac Predictions

From the results of the research conducted, the majority of scholars limit the function of animals to three, namely: decorating the sky, giving directions and casting demons. In addition to these three, a number of verses in the Qur'an reject the truth of star divination, because only Allah knows the unseen. As stated in a number of verses, among others mentioned in Surah An-Naml verse 65, which reads:

قُلْ لَا يَعْلَمُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ الْغَيْبَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

"Say (Prophet Muhammad), "There is no one in the heavens and the earth who knows anything unseen except Allah. Nor do they know when they will be resurrected." (QS. An-Naml/27:65).

This explicitly denies knowledge of the unseen from anyone other than Him. No creature that Allah has created knows things that have not yet happened. Allah created the stars not for fortune-telling, and those who use them as a

medium for fortune-telling have misused the purpose for which they were created. (Tuasikal, Hukum Membaca Ramalan Bintang, Zodiak dan Shio, 2022).

b) Hadiths on the Prohibition of Making Zodiac Predictions

There are eleven traditions in the Kutub Sittah Hadith regarding the prohibition of making predictions according to astrology. But on this occasion the author will only discuss one hadith, namely the hadith narrated by Abu Dawud No. 3406. The redaction of this hadith is:

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو بَكْرِ بْنُ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ وَمُسَدَّدُ الْمَعْنَى قَالََا حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ الْأَخْنَسِ
عَنْ الْوَلِيدِ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ عَنْ يُوسُفَ بْنِ مَاهِكٍ عَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ
عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ مَنْ افْتَتَبَسَ عِلْمًا مِنَ النُّجُومِ افْتَتَبَسَ شُعْبَةً مِنَ السَّحْرِ زَادَ مَا زَادَ

"Abu Bakr ibn Abu Shaibah and Musaddad narrated it to us, and they said: Yahya narrated it to us from 'Ubaidullah ibn al-Akhnas from al-Walid ibn Abdullah from Yusuf ibn Mahik from Ibn 'Abbas, who said: The Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever learns necromancy has learned part of sorcery." He added to his censure what he added." (HR. Abu Dawud 3406) (Cut Shabrina Dzati Amani, Ramalan Zodiak dalam Pandangan Islam: Studi Takhrij dan Syarah Hadis, 2022).

c) The Ruling on Believing in Zodiac Prophecy Based on the Way of Believing

1) If it is just reading the zodiac or horoscope, even if one does not believe in it or confirm it, then it is still haram. As a result of this action, his prayers will not be accepted for 40 days. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said,

مَنْ أَتَى عَرَّافًا فَسَأَلَهُ عَنْ شَيْءٍ لَمْ تُقْبَلْ لَهُ صَلَاةٌ أَرْبَعِينَ لَيْلَةً مَنْ أَتَى عَرَّافًا فَسَأَلَهُ عَنْ شَيْءٍ
لَمْ تُقْبَلْ لَهُ صَلَاةٌ أَرْبَعِينَ لَيْلَةً

"Whoever goes to a fortune teller, his prayers for 40 days will not be accepted." (HR Muslim no. 2230). This is the result of merely reading. The meaning of his prayers not being accepted for 40 days is explained by An-Nawawi: "What is meant by his prayers not being accepted is that he will not be rewarded for them. But the prayers that he prayed are still regarded as fulfilling the obligation of his prayers, and he does not need to repeat them." (Syarah Muslim, 14: 227) (Tuasikal, Hukum Membaca Ramalan Bintang, Zodiak dan Shio, 2022).

- 2) If one confirms or believes in these predictions, then he is disbelieving in the Qur'an, which states that only Allah has the knowledge of the unseen. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said,

مَنْ أَتَى كَاهِنًا أَوْ عَزَافًا فَصَدَّقَهُ بِمَا يَقُولُ فَقَدْ كَفَرَ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

“Whoever goes to a soothsayer or a fortune-teller and believes him, has disbelieved in the Qur'an that was revealed to Muhammad.” (HR. Ahmad no. 9532, hasan). However, if a person reads the fortune-teller in order to refute him and expose his deceit, then this is something that is enjoined and may even be regarded as obligatory (Al Qoulul Mufid 'ala Kitabit Tauhid, 1: 330) (Tuasikal, Hukum Membaca Ramalan Bintang, Zodiak dan Shio, 2022).

- d) The ruling on believing in zodiac predictions based on astrology.
- 1) The belief that the position of celestial bodies creates all the events in the universe and all events come from the movement of celestial bodies. This kind of belief is held by Ash Shobi-ah who believe that all the movements of celestial bodies can be claimed to cause good and bad events in the universe and this kind of belief is kufr based on the agreement of the scholars (Tuasikal, Dosa Besar Akibat Membaca Ramalan Bintang, 2009).
 - 2) The belief that the position of the existing heavenly bodies is only a cause (ta'tsir) and that these bodies do not create all existing events. This kind of belief is also still wrong and includes shirk ashgor. Because Allah Himself has never made the heavenly bodies the cause of anything (Tuasikal, Dosa Besar Akibat Membaca Ramalan Bintang, 2009).
 - 3) The position of celestial bodies as a clue to future events. This kind of belief means claiming the knowledge of ghoib. This includes shamanism and sorcery. Such actions are kufr, according to the consensus of the scholars. (Tuasikal, Dosa Besar Akibat Membaca Ramalan Bintang, 2009).
 - 4) Abu Daud Hadith No. 3406 explains the Prophet's threat and reproach against those who study tanjim, because this science is included in sorcery. According to Ibn Taimiyah, tanjim is the prediction of events on earth based on the guidance of the stars. (Cut Shabrina Dzati Amani, Ramalan Zodiak dalam Pandangan Islam: Studi Takhrij dan Syarah Hadis, 2022). Studying this field is a form of shirk, as astrologers use the conditions of the planets, stars, and other celestial bodies to predict different earthly occurrences. The idea behind the zodiac is similar to that of tanjim divination; it is a system of predicting stars based on closely spaced constellations that form a pattern.
 - 5) Zodiac predictions and any form of causality are adi law. The ruling of adi is fully mentioned by the Mufti of Betawi Sayyid Uthman bin Yahya when reviewing the creed of Ahlussunnah wal Jamaah in the following Book of

Attributes Twenty: "The meaning of the law of adi is to assign an item to an item or to deny an item to an item on the basis of repeated and valid mistakes and also by not giving a trace of one of them to the other,". In the context of this customary law, it could be that zodiac predictions are born from repeated and proven habits so that the link between certain fates or characters and certain months seems very close. In this case we may believe the prediction as something that is repeated and legitimate (Kurniawan, Bolehkah Mempercayai Ramalan Zodiak dalam Islam?, 2018).

CONCLUSION

From our literature study-based research, we conclude that the Islamic view of astrology tends to reject the practice of this science. Zodiac in general is an astronomical science originating from the ancient Greek civilization regarding a series of twelve star signs based on the position of celestial bodies. It tends to be combined with astrology and used to predict the future such as love life, career and other aspects of life.

Although Islamic teachings reject the practice and study of astrology, there are still many Muslims who study and believe in zodiac predictions. Some of the common factors they believe in it can be due to the barnum effect, which is a state where a person feels a connection and fit with ambiguous descriptions such as zodiac predictions, the influence of technological advances and social media, uncertainty about the future, and lack of knowledge about the laws of Islamic teachings regarding zodiac predictions or astrology. In addition, the influence of social media also strengthens the interest in zodiac predictions, coupled with the FoMO (Fear of Missing Out) phenomenon, which makes people not want to miss the trend.

From an Islamic perspective, zodiac predictions are highly discouraged. The Qur'an and hadith emphatically state that knowledge of the unseen belongs only to Allah, and attempts to predict the future through astrology are considered deviant. Islam considers that believing in zodiac predictions can lead a person to commit shirk if they believe in them. In this context, while the zodiac has cultural and historical significance, belief in it should be limited and treated with caution according to religious teachings.

Overall, Islam rejects the practice of astrology because it contradicts the principle that only Allah knows the unseen. Therefore, Muslims are advised not to fully believe in zodiac predictions and to deal with them wisely according to religious teachings.

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