

THE INFLUENCE OF THE EXAMPLE OF UMMUL MUKMININ AISYAH (RADHIYALLAHU ANHA) IN ACCOMPANYING THE APOSTOLIC MISSION OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD SAW ON WOMEN

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Abstract

This article aims to delve deeper into the life history of Ummul Mukminin Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha), focusing on her exemplary qualities and how they serve as a model for Muslim women in supporting the apostolic mission of Prophet Muhammad (Shallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). This research was conducted using library research methodology, collecting various historical data and facts through existing literature such as books, journals, and theses. The research steps include heuristics, source criticism, interpretation, and historiography. The final results of the literature review is The influence of Aisyah's exemplary qualities on women includes becoming knowledgeable, utilizing their youth productively, maintaining obedience, and possessing noble character like Aisyah.

Keyword: Aisyah, role model, exemplary.

A. Background

Islam came with the sending of a Prophet, namely Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam), who was appointed as the Apostle of Allah. The Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was sent as

Allah's Apostle through the intermediary of the angel Gabriel, who brought direct revelation from Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala). These revelations, in the form of verses from the Qur'an, were revealed gradually until the Prophet's death. The contents of Allah's verses include shari'a rules established by Allah. The essence of the sending of Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) by Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) was to perfect all human morals until the last day.

The apostolic mission of the Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is a very complex mission, as perfecting human morals or habits is not an easy task and requires faith. However, in this mission, the Prophet was not alone; faith and acceptance by the community were tasks of Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) to place in their hearts. By the Prophet's side were his companions, who always supported and helped him in carrying out his mission, which came directly from God, the Creator of the universe.

Among the missions assigned to Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) as an Apostle were:

First, To uphold monotheism, namely worshiping only Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala). When the Prophet was commanded to preach to the Arab community at that time, the first thing he addressed was the worship of Allah alone and not anyone else. This mission has been the mission of all the Apostles from beginning to end, as stated in QS. Al-Anbiya/22:25:

Translation:

"And We did not send a Messenger before you, but We revealed to him: 'There is no god but Me, so worship Me, all of you.'¹"

¹Kementerian Agama RI, Al-Qur'an dan Terjemahnya, Juz 14 (Bandung: PT. Sygma Examedia Arkanleema, 2011), h. 273

The second mission is to convey all the Shari'a that Allah has established in the Qur'an and Sunnah and to explain these Shari'a in detail. The third mission is to inform the people about the commands of Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) which will be rewarded with benefits in this world and in the afterlife. Additionally, the Prophet was to preach about the prohibitions which, when violated, would cause the perpetrator to sin and receive negative consequences in both this world and the hereafter.

The fourth mission is to improve human morals. Human morals include the way individuals interact with other humans, their characteristics, and their daily behavior. This encompasses relationships with other people, plants, animals, and most importantly, their relationship with God. Morals have a broad scope and need to be good before learning any science.

The fifth mission is to uphold and apply God's law among the people and to be the first example of everything prescribed to humans so that the people can see how God's laws are applied.

The companions of the Prophet were people with a high enthusiasm for knowledge and good deeds, as were the female companions. Whenever a revelation or hadith recommended a practice, the companions would compete to carry it out. They were very attentive to the syar'i arguments from the Qur'an and Hadith. It can be said that the need for the Prophet's companions for revelation in the form of the Qur'an and Hadith was very high due to the faith embedded in their hearts. They planted and nurtured seeds of devotion and surrendered all their daily experiences to the rules of the Shari'a.

Among the wives who accompanied the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha), known for her high level of intelligence. Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha) became the wife of the Prophet

Muhammad, accompanying him in his apostolic mission. Not only during the Prophet's life, but even after his death, Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha) continued this mission by teaching the hadiths of the Prophet that she had learned while living with him. Additionally, Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha) provided fatwas to the companions (Radhiyallahu Anhum).

Hadith has various definitions including: everything that was said by the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam), the Sunnah of the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam), and all the words and actions of the Prophet that were recommended to be carried out. Hadith is a guideline regulated in the Shari'a. Hadith is also called Sunnah, which refers to words or actions that are recommended. When done, a person receives a reward of goodness from Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala), while those who do not do it neither receive a reward nor suffer sin.

Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha) accompanied the apostolic mission of the Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) with various advantages and virtues, especially at a relatively young age, making her life very beneficial for herself, her family, and, of course, her companions and sahabiyyah (Radhiyallahu Anhum). This inspired researchers to delve deeper into the life story of Ummul Mukminin Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha) and her various productive endeavors during her life, which could serve as a role model. Additionally, the researcher aims to highlight the example of Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha) in accompanying the apostolic mission of the Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam), particularly in relation to women.

B. Discussion

The figure of Aisyah (*Radhiyallahu Anha*) is a role model for millions of women on this earth. She possesses perfect traits and characteristics that teach

future generations. Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha) has various stories of her life that describe her obedience to Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala), excellent manners and morals, purity and asceticism, and intelligence, which enable her to explain various sharia laws. Women can look to Aisyah as the ideal Muslim woman.

The Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said:

It means:

"Many men are capable of achieving perfection. But there were only a few women who could achieve the same thing, namely Maryam bint Imran and Asiyah, Pharaoh's wife. "Indeed, the superiority of Aisyah compared to other women is the same as the superiority of porridge compared to all other foods." (HR. Bukhari, Muslim, Tirmidhi, and Ibn Majah)

Women play multiple roles in both family and society, making it crucial for them to have role models who can guide them to fulfill these roles optimally and in an organized manner. Ummul Mukminin Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha) exemplifies many virtues, and reflecting on her life can profoundly influence women. As discussed earlier, we will now delve into the specific aspects of Aisyah's influence as a role model for women, including the following:

1. Becoming a Knowledgeable Woman

A passion for learning is pivotal for women to emulate Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha), renowned for narrating numerous hadiths and recognized as a female scholar. Exploring Aisyah's life history, especially her journey in seeking knowledge, can energize women to pursue learning enthusiastically and to master knowledge according to their abilities, thereby becoming valuable contributors. R.A. Kartini once proposed that liberating

women starts with establishing schools where they can learn, beginning with educating those nearby and expanding to broader educational initiatives.

The societal role of women is pivotal, necessitating substantial knowledge to play significant roles that benefit both family and society. From beginning to end, the pursuit of knowledge requires clear intentions. Dedicate oneself and align intentions towards learning to benefit others, following the example of Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha), who studied under Allah's guidance and the Prophet's teachings.

Having a mentor is essential in the journey of acquiring knowledge. Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha) not only studied under her parents (Abu Bakar As-Shiddiq and Umm Rumah, Radhiyallahu Anhum) before marriage but also continued her education under Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). As previously mentioned, Aisyah was known for her inquisitiveness, frequently seeking clarification from the Prophet regarding matters she did not comprehend, including the interpretation of Quranic verses. This underscores the significance of having a knowledgeable mentor for clear and comprehensive understanding.

Acquiring knowledge is a gradual process; expertise cannot be achieved overnight but requires patience and unwavering commitment to learning. Indeed, every life achievement marks a step in the ongoing journey of knowledge acquisition, enriching oneself continuously. Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha) exemplified this commitment, beginning her educational journey in childhood and persisting in learning until her passing, dedicating her life to worshipping Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala). Quranic verse Al-Bayyinah/98 : 5 emphasizes:

"They were not commanded except to worship Allah, offering Him sincere obedience, being upright, and to establish prayer and to give zakah. And that is the correct religion."²

Women have equal opportunities as men to pursue education, enhancing their capabilities and significantly contributing to society. Education is a noble act of worship that empowers women to assume pivotal roles. Many responsibilities in society are inherently female, essential to be directly managed by women, not to compete with men but to complement each other, each gender fulfilling its unique role.

"They were not commanded except to worship Allah, offering Him sincere obedience, being upright, and to establish prayer and to give zakah. And that is the correct religion." (Quran, Al-Bayyinah/98:5)³

Women have equal opportunities to study as men. They should also pursue knowledge to enhance their abilities. Seeking knowledge is a noble act of worship; through knowledge, women can play significant roles in society. Many responsibilities in the world are best managed by women and cannot be replaced by men. The goal is not to compete with men but to fulfill essential roles that women uniquely contribute to. Women and men were created not as rivals but to complement each other, each with their distinct roles.

2. Utilizing Youth Productively

Studying the life history of Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha) reveals that she began her studies at a young age, married Prophet Muhammad at a young age, and thereafter dedicated her life to serving as a companion to the Messenger

²Kementerian Agama RI, Al-Qur'an dan Terjemahnya, Juz 14 (Bandung: PT. Sygma Examedia Arkanleema, 2011), h. 273

³Kementerian Agama RI, Al-Qur'an dan Terjemahnya, Juz 14 (Bandung: PT. Sygma Examedia Arkanleema, 2011), h. 273

of Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala), playing a significant role in the Muslim community.

Women who reflect on Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha) can redirect their youth away from frivolous pursuits like constant socializing, aimless travel, excessive gadget use, and other unproductive activities. Instead, they can channel their youthful energy into productive endeavors such as learning, acquiring soft skills, and adding value to themselves. By doing so, women can maximize their productive years when enthusiasm and physical abilities are at their peak, fostering positive impacts on their present and future lives.

3. Become a Woman Who Maintains Obedience

Obedience entails a steadfast commitment to implementing Islamic law in every facet of life, a crucial aspect for every Muslim woman. Upholding obedience means adhering to the commands of Allah subhanahu wa taala, the creator and regulator of the universe and all its contents. Similar to Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha), who meticulously observed her worship—both obligatory and sunnah—women can emulate her enthusiasm in worshipping Allah and maintaining obedience. This includes steadfastly performing the five daily prayers, fasting during Ramadan, and sincerely reading and reciting the Quran for the sake of Allah subhanahu wa taala.

Women who are knowledgeable and possess sincere intentions for Allah subhanahu wa taala will naturally embody obedience. True obedience stems from a deep understanding of Islamic law. Through knowledge, individuals become fervent in their worship. Consistency in implementing Islamic law, known as *istikamah*, is crucial. *Istikamah* represents sustained goodness and obedience, integrating obedience into daily routines.

Istikamah in obedience not only ensures consistency in religious practices like prayer and fasting but also extends to other areas of life, such as maintaining a consistent diet or exercise regimen. Aisyah (Radhiyallahu Anha) pursued knowledge and disseminated it throughout her life, driven by her commitment to steadfastness in all her endeavors.

C. Conclusion

Aisyah radhiyallahu anha with her various forms of exemplary behavior as mentioned in the discussion chapter makes her one of the women of heaven, a woman whom Allah and His Messenger are pleased with. Among her exemplary forms are Aisyah's example in faith, radhiyallahu anha, example in knowledge, example in spreading knowledge, example in morals, and example in being a wife. Women's reflection on the exemplary form of Aisyah radhiyallahu anha can produce the form of an ideal Muslim woman as per the rules of the Shari'a.

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