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Judul : RIYĀḌ AL-ŞĀLIḤĀT AND THE CIRCULATION OF GENDER
CONSERVATISM AMONG URBAN MUSLIMAH IN INDONESIA

Jurnal : Journal of Namibian Studies; ISSN : 2197-5523; ISSN print : 1863-5953,
VOLUME 33 2023

Penulis : Ardiansyah et al.

No	Perihal	Tanggal
1.	Submission Acknowledgement	10 Desember 2022
2.	Confirmation and acknowledgement of receipt	29 Desember 2022
3.	Manuscript at Desk Review	14 Januari 2023
4.	Reviewer Comments	16 Februari 2023
5.	Manuscript accepted for publication	28 Februari 2023
6.	Galley confirmation	3 Maret 2023
7.	Publication	10 Maret 2023



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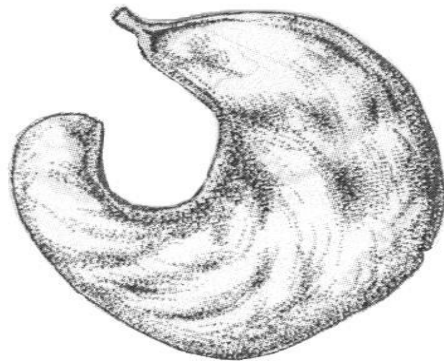
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ISSN 1863 – 5954 (Print)

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RIYĀḌ AL-ŞĀLIĤĀT AND THE CIRCULATION OF GENDER CONSERVATISM AMONG URBAN MUSLIMAH IN INDONESIA

Ardiansyah

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Abstract

In 2014, a *muṣḥaf* named Ummul Mukminin was published by a Quran publisher in Bandung, Indonesia. It targets female Muslim, as its cover suggested by self-claiming “Qur’an Terjemah untuk Perempuan”. It contains official translation of the Quran by the Ministry of Religious Affairs (2009 edition) and some additional texts in the back, including a “chapter” under the title “20 Wasiat Rasulullah untuk Perempuan”. This part contains text and translation of twenty hadiths from the *Riyāḍ al-Şāliḥāt Quṭūf Tarbawiyya min Bustān al-Nubuwwa* by Badawī Maḥmūd al-Sheikh. This research shows that out of twenty hadiths, only seven come from the *Riyāḍ al-Şāliḥāt* while the rest have no roots in the very book. It also finds that the gender narrative conveyed the chapter in particular and the paratext as a whole, contains subordination, domestication, and attempts to maintain certain stereotypes on women—all being part of conservative gender paradigm. Observation and interviews I conducted shows that the narrative has successfully penetrated the minds of urban Muslimahs. This research also raises a hypothesis that *Riyāḍ al-Şāliḥāt* is likely to be part of a bigger family of popular Islamist literature.

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Keywords: *Riyāḍ al-Şāliḥāt*, gender conservatism, urban Muslimah, Islamist literature.

1. Introduction

[AQ3] Please rectify the format for writing citations in the article, as the majority of the citations contain errors.

This article delves into a *muṣḥaf*¹ named Ummul Mukminin. It was published by a Quran publisher in Bandung in 2014. While the logo says that the publisher’s name is Penerbit Wali, the *tanda tashih*² says that the name is rather Mikraj Khazanah Ilmu. It clearly targets Muslimahs (female Muslim), as its cover suggested by self-claiming “Qur’an Terjemah untuk Perempuan”. This *muṣḥaf* contains Quran translation and has paratext in the back of it. This paratext is what makes it important to be a research subject. The paratext becomes the selling point of the product and contains explanations about women.

The paratext is divided into four “chapters”, one of which, the third, contains several “subchapters”. The first chapter is entitled “Riyadus Salihat: 20 Wasiat Rasulullah untuk

¹The term *muṣḥaf* refers to physical form of the Qur’an, while the latter term “*qur’an*” refers to the content and text. For further explanation about this, see Angelika Neuwirth, “Two Faces of the Qur’an: Qur’an and Muṣḥaf,” *Oral Tradition* 25, no. 1 (2010): 141–56; Muhammad Dluha Luthfillah, “Patriarki Dalam Kitab Suci Yang Terkomodifikasi,” *Şuhuf: Jurnal Pengkajian Al-Qur’an Dan Budaya* 12, no. 2 (December 2019): 283.

[AQ4] Please remove all footnotes from the article

²*Tanda tashih* is an official certificate issued by Lajnah Pentashihan Mushaf al-Qur’an. This certificate proves that the product has official permission to circulate in the society. For more about this, see Abdul Hakim, “Pola Tashih Mushaf Al-Qur’an Di Indonesia: Benang Merah Institusi Pentashihan Sebelum Tahun 1959” 7, no. 1 (2014): 25–40; Zainal Arifin Madzkur, Mustopa, and Irwan, “Pentashihan Dan Para Pentashih Mushaf Al-Qur’an Di Indonesia, 1957-2020” 13, no. 2 (2020): 289–308.

Perempuan (Riyadus Salihat: 20 Testaments of the Prophet [Muhammad] for Women); the second chapter is entitled “Islamic Law on Women”; the third chapter is entitled “Women’s Position in the Qur’an”; the fourth and the last chapter is entitled “Women in the Qur’an”. Following the last chapter is the *marāji’* that contains a list of cited literature.

If we look at the list of references at the very back, we will find that *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt* referred to in this muṣḥaf is *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt Quṭūf Tarbawiyya min Bustān al-Nubuwwa* by Badawī Maḥmūd al-Sheikh.³ The title of this book is interesting because it is similar to the title of a very popular book among Indonesian Muslims, *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥīn*. With that title, *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt* seems to say that it is *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥīn* for women.

*Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt*⁴ contains more than one hundred hadiths with brief explanations of foreign, difficult words or phrases and explanations of the content of the hadith. However, Ummul Mukminin only mentions twenty hadiths in the first chapter of the paratext. Are the twenty hadiths selected from *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt*? What do these hadiths say to the reader? Furthermore, what does this paratext as a whole explain to the reader? This article will answer these questions.

Discussing a muṣḥaf that identify itself as targeting women, this article joins the discussion with researches on muṣḥaf for women.⁵ In addition, since the muṣḥaf contains a translation of the Qur’an, this article will also have a wedge with research on the translation of the Qur’an.⁶

2. Literature Review

2.1. Is “20 Prophets’ Testaments for Women” the *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt*?

The first chapter of the paratext of Ummul Mukminin is entitled “Riyadus Salihat: 20 Wasiat Rasulullah untuk Perempuan”. This chapter contains twenty-two hadiths that explain twenty points regarding the character of a Muslimah, pious and righteous woman. Two of these twenty points of explanation contain two hadiths of the same context which also appear side by side in the books of hadith. As the rule says, these hadiths do not have a complete chain of chains. They appear as mu’allaq hadith.⁷ Only one or two names from the chain of transmission

³ There is another book with the exact same title, but has different subtitle. *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt: Qabasāt min Aḥādīth Sayyid al-Sādāt* by Aḥmad ‘Ubaid al-Da’ās.

⁴ Badawī Maḥmūd, *Riyāḍ Al-Ṣāliḥāt: Quṭūf Tarbawiyya Min Bustān al-Nubuwwa* (Cairo: Dār al-Salām, 1989).

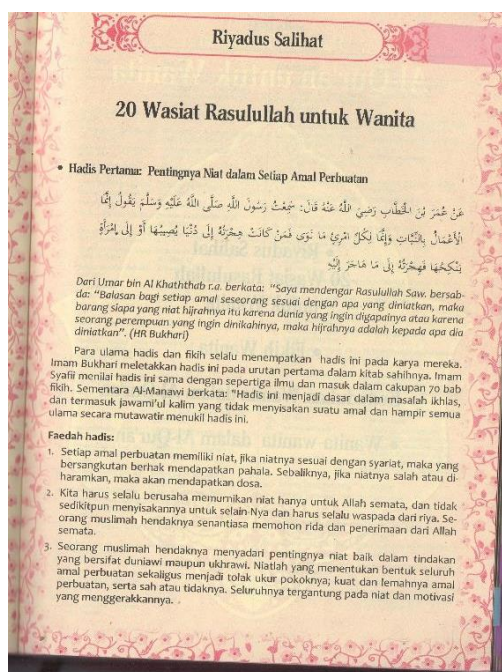
⁵ Muhammad Imdad Ilhami Khalil, “Konstruksi Pemahaman Islam Dalam Teks-Teks Tambahan Terjemah al-Qur’an (Kajian Terhadap Aliyah: Al-Qur’an, Terjemah, Dan Tafsir Mushaf Wanita)” (Yogyakarta, UIN Sunan Kalijaga, 2019); Luthfillah, “Patriarki Dalam Kitab Suci Yang Terkomodifikasi.”

⁶ Fadhli Lukman, “The State as the Political Interpreters: The History of al-Qur’an Dan Terjemahnya by Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs” (PhD Thesis, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, 2019); Munirul Ikhwan, “Challenging the State: Exegetical Translation in Opposition to the Official Religious Discourse of the Indonesian State,” *Journal of Qur’anic Studies* 17, no. 3 (2015): 121–57; Moch. Nur Ichwan, “Negara, Kitab Suci Dan Politik: Terjemah Resmi al-Qur’an Di Indonesia,” in *Sadur: Sejarah Terjemahan Di Indonesia Dan Malaysia*, ed. Henri Chambert-Loir (Jakarta: Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia, 2009), 417–33; Ervan Nurtawab, “Qur’anic Translations in Malay, Javanese and Sundanese: A Commentary of Substitution?,” in *The Qur’ān in the Malay-Indonesian World: Context and Interpretation*, ed. Majid Daneshgar, Peter G Riddell, and Andrew Rippin (New York: Routledge, 2017), 39–57.

⁷ *Mu’allaq* hadith is a hadith with a very short *isnād* (chain of transmission) attached to it. This short *isnād* only mentions one or two names of the oldest transmitter in the chain.

104 appear in the text. However, the second narration that appears in the same point gets the chain
105 of sanad mentioned in full form, from the youngest transmitter (the direct informant of the author
106 of a hadith book) to the last, oldest informant from the generation of companion (*ṣaḥāba*). This
107 exception, as I will explain later, turns out to be problematic in the aspect of *'ulūm al-ḥadīth*.
108

109 At each point, there is a phrase that appears as the title (not “subsection”) and explains
110 the gist of the point to be explained. The Arabic text then appears, followed by a free translation
111 into Indonesian which ends with a description of the source in brackets. In different quantities
112 and depths, Tim Penyusun (a group of authors of the paratext) explains the hadith and
113 sometimes relates it to the lives of the women that the Tim witnesses. The last part of each
114 point mentions, in numeric pointers, lessons learned from the hadiths and explanations that
115 have been presented previously. In this section, the Tim also sometimes relates it to the lives of
116 women the Tim witnesses. Text Appendix of 20 Prophet’s Testaments for Women as shown on
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Figure 1. Text Appendix of 20 Prophet's Testaments for Women

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124 With such a composition, under the chapter heading, readers will think that these twenty
125 points come from a book entitled *Riyadus Salihat* (*riyāḍ*: gardens, *ṣāliḥāt*: righteous women).
126 They are translations or summaries of the explanations contained in the kitab *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt*.
127 However, based on my source search, only seven (fifth, sixth, eighth, ninth, twelfth, thirteenth,
128 nineteenth hadith) are actually mentioned in the book, although sometimes with different
129 wording variations from those chosen by the kitab. Three hadiths (seventh, eleventh, and
130 sixteenth) pick a text different from that in the kitab though they both discuss about the same
131 theme. The remaining ten are nowhere to be found in the book.
132

133 From the first category, muṣḥaf “correct” the text of the hadith to be more faithful to the
134 source book—with this term I mean books of hadith collection, be it *al-kutub al-sitta*, *tis'a*, or

beyond. We can see this in the thirteenth hadith.⁸ In the kitab, we find this text. In this text, the kitab mentions *ba'd al-ruwāt*, while the source book mentions *ghair Musaddad*.⁹ Muṣḥaf choose a text that is more faithful to the source book.¹⁰

In other case, twelfth hadith, the kitab and muṣḥaf choose different wording of the text. The kitab¹¹ mentions the text that We can find this version in *Sunan Abī Dāwūd*.¹² However, the version chosen by the muṣḥaf¹³ is also found in the same source book.¹⁴

Having the explanations in the kitab and the muṣḥaf compared, I did not find a part that would help make sense of the choice. This is different from the case in the ninth hadith in which muṣḥaf prefers a text from *al-kutub al-tis'a* to replace a text from *al-kutub al-sitta*—another category that ranks higher in the hierarchy—chosen by the kitab.

This text is chosen by the kitab. It comes from *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*.¹⁵ Yet, muṣḥaf replaces it with a text from *Musnad Aḥmad*.¹⁶ Aḥmad's text¹⁷ has *fa-inna kunna akthar ahl Jahannam yaum al-Qiyāma* (you are the majority of the inhabitants of Hell on the Day of Judgment). The kitab mentions no clue nor allusion about this phrase. However, in the muṣḥaf, this point is even mentioned as part of the lessons learned from this hadith. Having this in mind, I argue that this shift in selection was for the sake of argument, without which muṣḥaf would not have a basis for raising such an argument.

A similar motive also occurs in the second category, where the muṣḥaf chooses texts that relate different contexts. The text that muṣḥaf chooses is not an alternative wording of the same context, but rather a hadith that describes a different context. We can see this in the sixteenth hadith. The kitab mentions a relatively short hadith. "*Khairu masajidi an-Nisa buyutuhunna*". (Ahmad wa al-Hakim).¹⁸

Yet, the muṣḥaf chooses another text from the very source book, *Musnad Aḥmad*, but concerns a completely different context.

The the muṣḥaf emphasizes the argument that women are strongly encouraged to pray in the most private places in their homes. The kitab, on the other hand, tends to explain the conditions that must be met if women are to pray in the mosque, as well as the dos and don'ts. Thus, it is likely that the shift happens because the second text articulates the point much more clearly (*ṣaḥīḥ*) than the first.

⁸ *Riyāḍ Al-Ṣāliḥāt: Quṭūf Tarbawīyya Min Bustān al-Nubuwwa*, 182.

⁹ Sulaimān b. Ash'ath Abī Dāwūd, *Sunan Abī Dāwūd*, ed. Muḥammad Muḥyiddīn 'Abd al-Ḥamīd, vol. 2 (Beirut: Dār al-Fikr, n.d.), 685.

¹⁰ Tim Penyusun, *Al-Qur'an Wanita Ummul Mukminin* (Bandung: Mikraj Khazanah Ilmu, 2014), 12.

¹¹ *Riyāḍ Al-Ṣāliḥāt: Quṭūf Tarbawīyya Min Bustān al-Nubuwwa*, 164.

¹² Sulaimān b. Ash'ath Abī Dāwūd, *Sunan Abī Dāwūd*, ed. Muḥammad Muḥy al-Dīn 'Abd Al-Ḥamīd, vol. 1 (Beirut: Dār al-Fikr, n.d.), 418.

¹³ Penyusun, *Al-Qur'an Wanita Ummul Mukminin*, 164.

¹⁴ Abī Dāwūd, *Sunan Abī Dāwūd*, n.d., 1:459.

¹⁵ Muslim b. Ḥajjāj al-Naisābūrī, *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, vol. 3 (Beirut: Dār al-Jīl, n.d.), 80.

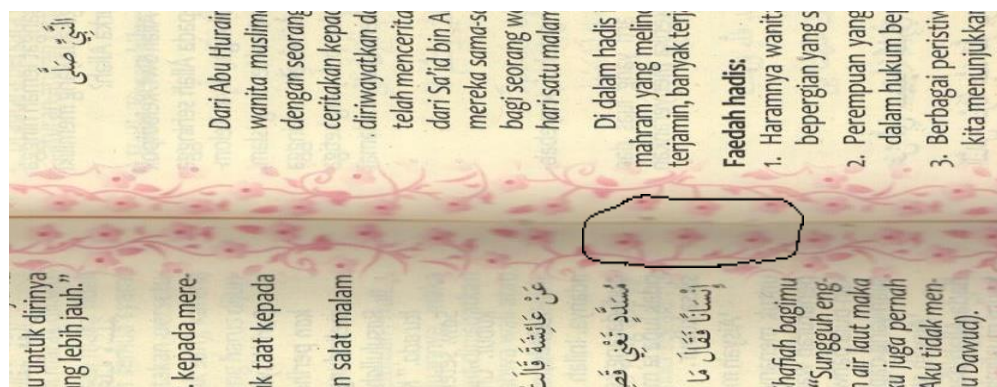
¹⁶ Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal al-Syaibānī, *Musnad Aḥmad*, vol. 6 (Beirut: 'Ālam al-Kitāb, 1998), 363.

¹⁷ Penyusun, *Al-Qur'an Wanita Ummul Mukminin*, 9.

¹⁸ *Riyāḍ Al-Ṣāliḥāt: Quṭūf Tarbawīyya Min Bustān al-Nubuwwa*, 75.

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In these two categories, there are two cases where the muṣḥaf replaces the text with two hadiths instead of one as in the previous cases. One case occurs in the first category (where the muṣḥaf only chooses another wording version of the same context), another case occurs in the second category (where the muṣḥaf chooses a text that describes a different context). In these two cases, as I have mentioned above, the second mentioned hadith has the *isnād* displayed in full. Both hadiths with full *isnād* happen to have *tahwīl al-isnād*. The serious fault in the muṣḥaf in both cases is the omission of the very information. As a result, two names that come from different paths are seen as teacher-student of a longer chain of chains, as shown in the Figure 2.



[AQ6] Please print the image's title boldly and plainly

Figure 2. Error muṣḥaf omission of information

In the image, Mālik seems to receive the hadith from al-Ḥasan b. 'Alī. Nevertheless, according to the source I mentioned beforehand, we know that al-Ḥasan is mentioned after the symbol of *tahwīl al-isnād*. Thus, it shows us that Mālik is the informant of 'Abdullāh b. Maslamah, al-Nufailī, and Bishr b. 'Umar. Mālik's informant in the *isnād* is Sa'īd b. Abī Sa'īd, not al-Ḥasan as the image falsely might inform. This shows that a (technical?) error by Tim had a serious impact on the aspect of hadith criticism.

Another error is the omission of one word that marks the name category. In the nineteenth hadith, the name that should appear is Abū Yaḥyā, but the muṣḥaf only mentions Yaḥyā. The omission of this one word, *ab*, drastically changed the category of Yaḥyā's name, from *kunyah* to *'alam*. This (technical?) error also has a serious impact on the aspect of hadith science, as shown in the Figure 3.

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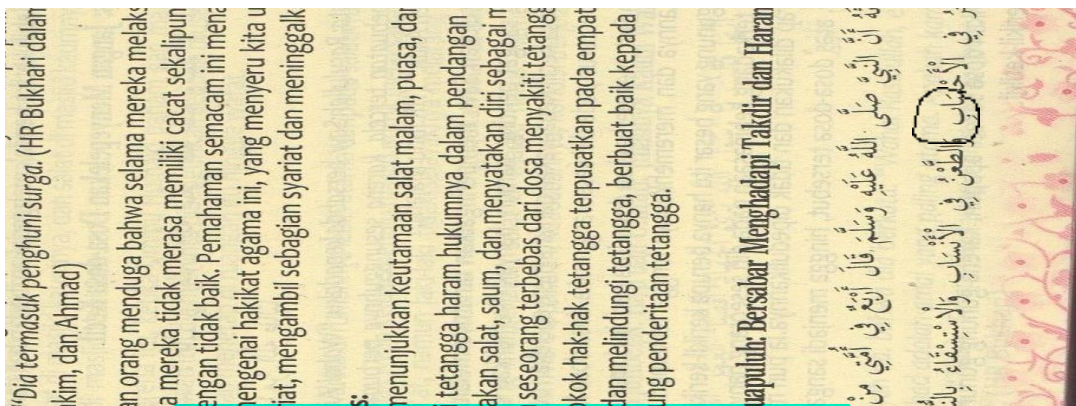


Figure 3. Technical Error in the Omission of a Word

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2.2. Gender Construction in the Chapter

[AQ8] Please adjust the use of white space and plainly print the title

The complexity of the dynamics of the hadith texts as seen in the previous section is not found when we try to read the gender narrative conveyed in the chapter “Riyadus Salihat: 20 Wasiat Rasulullah untuk Perempuan”. With various explanations, the narrative leads to four points; passive role of women, active obedience to husband, domestication, and stereotypes. These four axes are spread over twenty points from the three categories of hadith texts that I have described in the previous section.

What I mean by the passive role of women is an attitude of acceptance and restraint. In many points, gender narrative emphasizes that women must be patient to accept the fate. One could understand this as an advice to be patient with any condition a woman lives in. As will be seen in the next section, this point of patience is emphasized in various ways and through various media, especially hadith and anecdotes. The attitude of restraint appears as a teaching of shame; that shame is the character of righteous Muslimah. If a woman has no restraint or shame, “tidak ada lagi kebaikan dan takwa di hatinya (there is no more virtue and faith in her heart)”.¹⁹ Women, thus, are in a subordinate and inferior position.

Women can only play an active role as long as it is in the form of obedience to their husbands. She must actively keep her husband's room secret,²⁰ seek for husband's *riḍā*,²¹ because “a Muslim woman is not considered to have fully fulfilled the rights of Allah before she fully fulfills the rights of her husband.”²² This narrative touches even the most basic level of a Muslimah's religiosity; *taqwā*. It defines *taqwā* as an effort to achieve the *riḍā* (pleasure) of Allah and husband²³ because husband is heaven and hell for the wife.²⁴

The next axis is domestication. Although in some parts of the narrative encourage women to seek knowledge and mention the high curiosity of female companions (*ṣaḥābiyya*),²⁵ but they emphasize more that women should not leave the house without a *maḥram* for any purpose.

¹⁹ Penyusun, *Al-Qur'an Wanita Ummul Mukminin*, 9.

²⁰ Penyusun, 11.

²¹ Penyusun, 4.

²² Penyusun, 6.

²³ Penyusun, 4.

²⁴ Penyusun, 6.

²⁵ Penyusun, 6–9.

282 The narrative even justifies it with an allusion to today's situation. It says "the various events that
283 we encounter and the phenomena that occur in the society show the relevance of the hadith of
284 the Prophet pbuh. in prohibiting women to leave the house without a muhrim *at all times and*
285 *places.*"²⁶
286

287 The last axis of the narrative is the strengthening of stereotypes about women. One of
288 them relates "as is known, women are known to talk a lot."²⁷ This is an introduction to the
289 encouragement for women to do *ẓikr*. At the same time, this also explains (and justifies) why
290 this hadith only commands women to do *ẓikr*. Another stereotype is that women are the majority
291 of the inhabitants of hell.²⁸ This brings about inferiority and insecurity into women's minds and it
292 turn set up a psychological condition that makes women willingly accept the teachings that the
293 narrative articulates.

[AQ9] Please separate the title section from the paragraph's body with a vacant space

2.3. The Paratext of Ummul Mukminin

296 Right after the chapter Riyadus Salihat follows a chapter entitled "Fikih Wanita". It has several
297 subchapters, one of which concerns the issue of "*mencari nafkah dan bekerja di luar rumah*
298 (earn a living and work outside the home)". In this subchapter, the narrative gets more
299 conservative. It says that women are allowed to work outside the house if certain conditions are
300 met.²⁹ It regards that working is may only be carried out in an urgent situation. "If the life
301 necessities have been met, then (she) must immediately get out of it and return to (her) main
302 duties as a housewife."³⁰
303

304 Another part of the narrative places women as the source of *fitnah*—a standard
305 understanding in the patriarchal paradigm. The focus of this section is woman's voice and
306 fragrance. "Working women have to lower their voices ... because women's voices are '*aurat*.
307 Islam does not tolerate women to raise their voices."³¹ "Women who work are not allowed to
308 wear perfumes because one of the things that can be a source of *fitnah* is the smell of
309 fragrance."³²
310

311 In this section the narrative also alludes its "opponent". In the form of a warning, it says
312 that "A Muslim woman should not consider going out of the house to work as entertainment and
313 to relieve fatigue or to fill her spare time, or mainly because of the drive for emancipation or to
314 achieve freedom in the economy."³³ We have two keywords to identify the "opponent" that it
315 counters; emancipation and freedom. These two keywords often appear in the narratives of
316 women's rights advocates.
317

318 If we look at the common threads from several quotes within this sub-chapter, we find it
319 arguing that women's domestic roles are the rule and women's careers are the exception. The
320 subsequent chapter, "Kedudukan Wanita dalam al-Qur'an" has a core argument that Islam has
321 revived the rights of women that were "killed" during the *jāhiliyyah* period, especially economic
322

324 ²⁶ Penyusun, 11. Emphasis mine.

325 ²⁷ Penyusun, 6–7.

326 ²⁸ Penyusun, 9–10.

327 ²⁹ Penyusun, 43.

328 ³⁰ Penyusun, 43.

329 ³¹ Penyusun, 43.

330 ³² Penyusun, 44.

331 ³³ Penyusun, 43.

332 and social rights. Women's economic rights concern the issue of inheritance. Their social right
333 constitutes the right to object, a right preserved in Q. 58 (al-Mujādila):1 through the story of
334 Khaula bt. Tha'labā.³⁴ With all these rights, women do not need to do more than Islam has
335 prescribed. If Islam has laid down the rule that women have a domestic role, they must only do
336 that and need not to worry about anything because Islam has given them the rights they
337 deserve.
338

339 This narrative needs a point that leads women to accept the teachings to complete the
340 scenario. Therefore, we find the next chapter, "Wanita-wanita dalam Al-Qur'an", emphasizing on
341 the patient and submissive attitude of women. The stories of Sarah (Ibrāhīm's wife), Siti Asiyah
342 (or 'Aisha bt. Muzāḥim, Fir'aun's wife), Maryam the mother of 'Īsā, and Khadijah and Aisyah
343 ummul mu'minīn emphasize the patience that Muslim women must imitate. In order to make the
344 narrative stronger, it has a portrayal of the insecure world. "In today's context, when a woman
345 walks with someone who is not her husband, it will not cause a big *fitnah* like it would have done
346 at the time of the Prophet because of the moral decadence that has been so severe."³⁵
347

348 **3. Research Method**

349 **3.1. Penetration of Gender Conservatism on the Lives of Urban Muslimahs**

350 The gender paradigm that leads to subordination, domestication, and the strengthening
351 of stereotypes as explained above has confirmed that it brings in itself gender conservatism.³⁶
352 With their mass production and circulation, the possibility of public consumption of these texts
353 became quite large. Muṣḥaf Ummul Mukminin is available in various bookstores in big cities and
354 is available in the online market. A bookstore clerk states³⁷ that the majority of consumers of
355 these products are young women with an urban lifestyle. On this ground, I conducted interviews
356 with two Muslimah who read Ummul Mukminin in two cities, Yogyakarta and Kudus. The two
357 subjects I interviewed live in urban areas in their respective locations. I also made observations
358 on a group of *pengajian* (religious teaching) for young Muslimahs in an urban area in Surakarta.
359 In this group, the muṣḥaf to be read is not necessarily Ummul Mukminin.
360

361 From the interviews I conducted, I found that the two Muslimahs from Yogyakarta and
362 Kudus do not have as high intensity as the female santri in a pesantren. Not every day they
363 read the Qur'an. Anytime they read the Qur'an, the number of verses they read is not that much,
364 only three or five verses. They put more emphasis on understanding the verses they read.
365 Because they work, they don't have time to take part in group of Qur'an recitations and choose
366 to do it individually.³⁸ In this situation, the Qur'an translation helps them. However, do they also
367

369 ³⁴ Penyusun, 45–47.

370 ³⁵ Penyusun, 55.

371 ³⁶ Conservative paradigm stands face to face with progressive gender and women's rights
372 advocacy. I understand conservatism in Martin van Bruinessen's definition of the term. "The term
373 "conservative" refers to the various currents that reject modernist, liberal or progressive re-
374 interpretations of Islamic teachings and adhere to established doctrines and social order. Conservatives
375 notably object to the idea of gender equality and challenges to established authority, as well as to modern
376 hermeneutical approaches to scripture." Martin van Bruinessen, *Contemporary Developments in Indonesian*
377 *Islam: Explaining the "Conservative Turn,"* ed. Martin van Bruinessen (Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, 2013),
378 16.

379 ³⁷ Personal interview with Akhmad (not real name) on June 16, 2022.

380 ³⁸ Personal interview with Siti and Sofia (not real name) on July 7 and July 18, 2022.

381 read the paratext in the back of the muṣḥaf? Are they satisfied with the Qur'an translation? Two
382 of my subjects admitted that they did not read the entire paratext. Only when they get curious,
383 they read the text. However, they found points of subordination and domestication of the gender
384 narrative. This shows that the strategy of the Tim Penyusun is working quite well. Even for non-
385 persistent readers, some points from the main axis reach the reader's mind.
386

387 My observation in Surakarta leads to the same conclusion. The group has scheduled to
388 gather and read the Qur'an together twice a week. Its being a community helps members to
389 read more verses than my previous two subjects. After reading the verses together, they have a
390 short discussion about the lessons they learned from the verses. The sources they use to talk in
391 discussions are their life experiences, readings, and the Qur'an translations. These members
392 also did not fully read the paratext in their muṣḥaf. However, again, they managed to find points
393 of subordination and domestication.³⁹
394

395 This confirms Eva Nugraha's argument about the commodification of the Qur'an⁴⁰ and at
396 the same time adds to it. The additional point I put forward here shows that the commodification
397 of the Qur'an has been successful for urban Muslim women. Not only do the Muslimahs become
398 a consumer in the sense of buying a product, but they also consume the narrative conveyed by
399 the products. Having articulated this argument, I support the arguments of Akbar,⁴¹ Khalil,⁴² and
400 Luthfillah.⁴³
401

402 **4. Result and Discussion**

403 **4.1. *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt* and Islamist Movement? a Discussion**

404

405 I must say at the outset that this section is a preliminary hypothesis and requires serious and in-
406 depth further research to test it. This hypothesis has clues that have not been fully connected or
407 provided a complete picture of the argument. It concerns the possibility of *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt* being
408 part of the Islamist Movement. The basis of this hypothesis is the history of the publication of
409 this kitab, it being on the same list with several Islamist literatures, and its reception which
410 merges with the opinions of Islamist figures.
411

412 In my short investigation, I always find this kitab appears as a translated book into
413 Indonesian. The oldest track I can trace is its emergence as a translated work published by
414 Pustaka Azzam (Jakarta, 2005). Its next appearance—although not necessarily mean the loss
415 of the first track—was in 2009, then 2010 and 2011. It still appears as a translated work, but this
416 time the publisher was Mizania (Bandung), one of the prominent publishers of Islamic books in
417 Indonesia.
418

419 It is noteworthy that Pustaka Azzam adalah the most important Salafi publishing house in
420 Indonesia. It was born from the womb of al-Sofwa foundation, founded by Muhammad Yusuf
421
422

423 ³⁹ Personal interview in July 2022

424 ⁴⁰ Eva Nugraha, "Tren Penerbitan Mushaf Dalam Komodifikasi Al-Qur'an Di Indonesia," *Ilmu*
425 *Ushuluddin* 2, no. 3 (2015): 301–21; Eva Nugraha, "Tren Penerbitan Mushaf Dalam Komodifikasi Al-
426 Qur'an Di Indonesia," *Ulumuna* 18, no. 2 (2014): 369–94.

427 ⁴¹ Ali Akbar, "Pencetakan Mushaf Al-Qur'an Di Indonesia," *Suhuf Jurnal Pengkajian Al-Qur'an Dan*
428 *Budaya* 4, no. 2 (2011): 271–87.

429 ⁴² Khalil, "Konstruksi Pemahaman Islam Dalam Teks-Teks Tambahan Terjemah al-Qur'an (Kajian
430 Terhadap Aliyah: Al-Qur'an, Terjemah, Dan Tafsir Mushaf Wanita)."

431 ⁴³ Luthfillah, "Patriarki Dalam Kitab Suci Yang Terkomodifikasi."

432 Harun, one of the LIPIA lecturers who received training and degrees from Ibn Sa'ud University.
433 The foundation was inspired by and very likely to have certain relation with Pesantren Al-Turats
434 Al-Islami, the Islamic Centre Bin Bāz, and other movements run by Abu Nida, a Yogyakarta-
435 based, important Salafi figure in Indonesia.⁴⁴
436

437 Although never officially inclined to certain Islamist movement, Mizania is included in the
438 list of publishers that produce literature across ideologies. The literature it publishes conveys
439 motivation, public piety, and general Islam—and popular Islamism is no exception.⁴⁵ This makes
440 sense of Mizan being part of a group of publishers that put *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt* into circulation.
441

442 The fact that *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt* is the product of these two major publishers shows that it is
443 on the same list as other Islamic literature. In this muṣḥaf Ummul Mukminin, it is also on the list
444 of *marāji'* along with *Jilbab Wanita Muslimah Menurut Al-Qur'an dan as-Sunnah* by Muḥammad
445 Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Albānī (published by Pustaka at-Tibyan), *Shahih Fikih Wanita* by Muḥammad b.
446 Ṣāliḥ al-'Uthaimin (published by Pustaka Ibn Katsir), *Fataawaa an-Nisaa'* (*Edisi Terjemah*) by
447 Ibn Taimiyyah (no note on publisher).⁴⁶
448

449 Apart from being on the same list of *marāji'*, this kitab, *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt*, was also received
450 and explained with the ideas brought by Islamist leaders. What I mean here is that this book is
451 consumed, processed, and rearticulated by the audience; in the process, it throngs around with
452 the ideas of Islamist leaders. In Ummul Mukminin, for example, the hadiths of *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt*
453 are explained through the fatwas of Ibn al-Qayyim.⁴⁷
454

455 5. Conclusion

456 *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt* is used as one of the main references in the muṣḥaf Ummul Mukminin
457 published by Mikraj Khazanah Ilmu, Bandung and becomes a “chapter” heading in the paratext
458 at the back of the muṣḥaf. This chapter is entitled “20 Wasiat Rasulullah untuk Perempuan (20
459 Testaments of the Prophet [Muhammad] for Women)”, leading the audience to think that the
460 hadiths are selected from *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt*. Yet, reality does have a surprising amount of detail.
461

462 This passage, despite having that title, is not wholly derived from *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt*. Of the
463 twenty hadiths, only seven (the fifth, sixth, eighth, ninth, twelfth, thirteenth, nineteenth hadith)
464 are actually mentioned in the book, although sometimes with wording variations different from
465 those chosen by the book. Three hadiths (seventh, eleventh, and sixteenth) concern the same
466 theme but have different context. The remaining ten are nowhere to be found in the book. All
467 these hadiths—except those to be mentioned later—have only one (and sometimes two) names
468 of the transmitters attached to them.
469

470 The seven hadiths that find their roots in the book are also explained in a direction that is
471 sometimes quite different from the kitab's argument. In some parts, muṣḥaf replaces a narrative
472 with a new one that reinforces stereotypes about and domestication of women. This emphasis
473 sometimes goes hand in hand with the shift in wording variation. When the kitab chooses the
474
475

476 ⁴⁴ Noorhaidi Hasan, “Laskar Jihad: Islamic Militancy and the Quest for Identity in Post-New Order
477 in Indonesia” (PhD Thesis, Universiteit Utrecht, 2005), 49–50.

478 ⁴⁵ Munirul Ikhwan, “Produksi Wacana Islam(Is) Di Indonesia: Revitalisasi Islam Publik Dan Politik
479 Muslim,” in *Literatur Keislaman Generasi Milenial: Transmisi, Apropriasi, Dan Kontestasi* (Yogyakarta:
480 Pascasarjana UIN Sunan Kalijaga Press, 2018), 106–7.

481 ⁴⁶ Penyusun, *Al-Qur'an Wanita Ummul Mukminin*, 50.

482 ⁴⁷ Penyusun, 7.

483 wording variation A, the muṣḥaf chooses variation B because this latter variation has additional
484 points that support the emphasis the muṣḥaf wants to articulate.
485

486 In addition to supporting the narrative, there are cases where the muṣḥaf chooses a text
487 to “correct” the text related in the kitab. However, despite showing its faithfulness to textual
488 sources, the muṣḥaf also made a serious mistake in the aspect of ‘ulūm al-ḥadīth by omitting
489 the description of taḥwīl al-isnād. As a result, two names that are actually in different chains
490 appear to be connected as informants-transmitters of a long chain of chains. In other cases, the
491 muṣḥaf omits the word *ab* and thereby changes the status of the transmitter’s name from
492 *kunyah* to ‘*alam*.
493

494 These twenty hadiths convey an understanding that women must play a passive role in
495 domestic life. Women’s shyness and patient attitude are the main characters of a righteous,
496 pious Muslimah. Women are only allowed to be active to show obedience to their husbands.
497 Another part of the narrative presented here reinforces stereotypes about and attempts to
498 domesticate women. This paradigm is supported by the subsequent three chapters. In short, the
499 paratext leads to marginalization, domestication, and strengthening the stereotype
500

501 Such a conservative gender paradigm turns out to be something that lives. The interviews
502 I conducted with two Muslimahs living the urban life, show that the narrative has successfully
503 penetrated their minds. My observation on a group of young Muslimahs in Surakarta reinforces
504 the inference. Along with the Qur’an translation, the paratext plays a role as their guidance to
505 get lessons learned from the verses.
506

507 The last part of my findings concerns the possibility of *Riyāḍ al-Ṣāliḥāt* being part of the
508 Islamist Movement. The basis of this hypothesis is the history of the publication of this kitab, it
509 being on the same list with several Islamist literatures, and its reception which merges with the
510 opinions of Islamist figures. It was first published by Pustaka Azzam, the most important Salafi
511 publisher in Indonesia. Its next appearance was supported by Mizania, a publisher of literature
512 across ideologies. The kitab is consumed by groups of Muslim that put it on the same list with
513 the works of Muḥammad Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Albānī, Muḥammad b. Ṣāliḥ al-‘Uthaimin, and Ibn
514 Taimiyyah. However, to make a further argument on this, one needs a separate, serious, and in-
515 depth research.

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To Author: Thank you for the opportunity to read your paper. This is an interesting topic in an area of growing significance that is relevant to the RIYĀḌ AL-ŞĀLIḤĀT AND THE CIRCULATION OF GENDER CONSERVATISM AMONG URBAN MUSLIMAH IN INDONESIA. I have a few suggestions that you may consider as you develop the paper further:

ABSTRACT In the abstract, talk more about your conclusion.

INTRODUCTION Paragraph 1, with no references, explaining the context of the research. Paragraph 2, with references, explaining very generally what we know about the topic introduced in Paragraph 1. Paragraph 3 explaining what we need to find out. Paragraph 4 explaining briefly what this paper will do to find out, method etc. Paragraph 5, with no references, explaining the structure of this paper.

LITERATURE REVIEW. Theoretical literature has not been considered and reviewed. It's better to observe the connection between the contents. Try to explain everything except the topics to establish the necessary coherence. Theoretical Development: The literature review must engage in the constructs of your analytical framing in a meaningful way. The literature review section could be improved by being more analytical. In other words, building on the existing literature to highlight what is missing and what is yet to be done and in so doing outline the theoretical puzzles or debates to which this work contributes. I have concerns related to theoretical development and note the need for a more rigorous critique of the literature to help deepen the theoretical underpinnings of the study.

REFERENCES References should be modified according to the journal format. The references used in the theoretical literature are old and authors should use references

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References::

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