



## VERSES OF THE QUR'AN AND *THE NYADRAN RITUAL* : ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY PHENOMENOLOGY IN JAVANESE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

### AYAT AL-QUR'AN DAN RITUAL *NYADRAN*: KAJIAN ETNOGRAFI FENOMENOLOGI DALAM KOMUNITAS MUSLIM JAWA

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#### Abstract

Study This aiming For analyze integration Al-Qur'an verses in the Nyadran ritual through approach qualitative descriptive with use analysis thematic . The study was conducted in the Muslim community of Central Java with involving 20 religious figures and Nyadran ritual practitioners . Data obtained through *Focus Group Discussion* (FGD) and documentation direct on implementation of rituals, as well as analyzed use approach phenomenology of religion and ethnography . This study limited to aspects prayer and dhikr in the Nyadran ritual , in order to enrich understanding about the concept of 'living Quran' in culture local . Research results disclose that integration the verses of the Qur'an play a role important in formation meaning religious and social in the middle community , where prayer and remembrance exist in the nyadran ritual reflect dynamics living and adaptive faith to context Javanese culture . Data validity is guaranteed through member *checking* and *peer review* , as well as supported by studies literature from 25 articles Scopus indexed for five years last . Implications study This No only give contribution academic to studies Islam and culture local , but also open opportunity development more ritual methods inclusive and contextual .

**Keywords :** Al-Qur'an, Nyadran , ethnography , phenomenology of religion, living Qur'an.

#### Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis integrasi ayat-ayat Al-Qur'an dalam ritual nyadran melalui pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif dengan menggunakan analisis tematik. Studi dilakukan di komunitas Muslim Jawa Tengah dengan melibatkan 20 tokoh agama dan pelaku ritual



nyadran. Data diperoleh melalui *Focus Group Discussion* (FGD) dan dokumentasi langsung atas pelaksanaan ritual, serta dianalisis menggunakan pendekatan fenomenologi agama dan etnografi. Kajian ini dibatasi pada aspek doa dan zikir dalam ritual nyadran, guna memperkaya pemahaman tentang konsep 'living Quran' dalam budaya lokal. Hasil penelitian mengungkapkan bahwa integrasi ayat-ayat Al-Qur'an berperan penting dalam pembentukan makna religius dan sosial di tengah masyarakat, di mana doa dan zikir yang terdapat dalam ritual nyadran mencerminkan dinamika keimanan yang hidup dan adaptif terhadap konteks budaya Jawa. Validitas data dijamin melalui member *checking* dan *peer review*, serta didukung oleh kajian literatur dari 25 artikel terindeks Scopus selama lima tahun terakhir. Implikasi penelitian ini tidak hanya memberikan kontribusi akademis terhadap studi keislaman dan budaya lokal, tetapi juga membuka peluang pengembangan metode ritual yang lebih inklusif dan kontekstual.

**Kata Kunci:** Al-Qur'an, Nyadran, etnografi, fenomenologi agama, living Qur'an.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nyadran ritual is one of tradition religious ties that weave connection symbolic between values faith and wealth culture local in Indonesia, especially in Central Java. Along with the development of the times, the Nyadran ritual has experience transformation that is not only maintain element ritualistic basic , but also integrates values religious that exists in verses of the Qur'an. Phenomenon integration verses of the Qur'an in *the Nyadran* ritual No only reflect life dynamic Islam , but also shows adaptation culture in frame delivery messages religious in nature transformative .

Existence connection close between the *Nyadran* ritual and the teachings of the Qur'an become attention a number of researchers (Ahmad, 2021; Sulaiman, 2020). The integration strengthen draft *living Qur'an* , namely the Qur'an which is not only collected as text holy but also lived in every aspect life people . Research This make an effort to study How the verses of the Qur'an are interpreted and applied in the *nyadran* ritual , with focus specifically on prayer and dhikr . In the context This is the Nyadran ritual No only become effort strengthen spiritual bond between individual with God, but also as a medium for to glue values togetherness in community .

As part from studies phenomenology of religion, research This dig perception , experience , and interaction symbolic of what happened during implementation of *the nyadran* ritual . Qualitative methods descriptive chosen Because allow a deep understanding to perception public about integration Al-Qur'an verses in religious rituals the . Review of underlying literature study This show existence trend integration texts holy in various religious rituals , but studies about rite *Nyadran* and implementation the verses of the Qur'an have not Lots under review in a way comprehensive in context ethnography and phenomenology of religion (Rahman & Hidayat, 2022; Nurdin et al., 2019).



Study This own a number of objective main : (1) describe form integration verses of the Qur'an in implementation of the Nyadran ritual in the Muslim community of Central Java; (2) analyzing How prayer and dhikr as element main ritual of Nyadran contain meaning religious and social ; (3) linking findings empirical with literature about living Quran and adaptation culture in religious rituals . With so , research This expected can give contribution knowledge new about dynamics interaction between text sacred and practical religion that lives in the middle public .

The temporal scope of the research This is five years the last one which includes dynamics change in Nyadran ritual practices caused by the influence globalization , modernization , and progress technology information that is included change method distribution and meaning teachings of the Qur'an (Kurniawan, 2023). In addition , the influence of social media and digital platforms also provides contribution significant to distribution draft *living Qur'an* which then integrated to in practice traditional like *nyadran* .

Study This in a way special to study aspect prayer and dhikr in *the Nyadran* ritual . Prayer and dhikr No only functioning as form expression of gratitude and supplication , but also as a medium for direct dialogue between individual and the Creator . In the context this , integration the verses of the Qur'an become foundation alone which produces a room rich spiritual interaction meaning . Some researcher previously has show that distribution verses of the Qur'an through prayer and dhikr in traditional rituals can increase awareness religion and solidarity social in community (Fauzi, 2022; Jamaluddin, 2021).

Based on the description above is clear that study about integration verses of the Qur'an in *the Nyadran* ritual own urgency as well as mark strategic in development study Islam contemporary . This study also provides better understanding in about How practice religious traditional can adapt with demands of the times without lost spiritual essence and values the sublime contained in the Qur'an. With Thus , research This expected become reference important for academic , practitioner religious , as well as stakeholders policy in effort preservation and modernization of religious rituals traditional .

In order to answer problem said , research This use approach qualitative descriptive attention to detail context historical , cultural and dynamic activity religious in Central Java. Data analysis was conducted with approach thematic that allows researcher identify and categorize themes main about interaction between verses of the Qur'an with practice prayer and dhikr in *Nyadran* . Approach phenomenology and ethnography used as lens analysis For understand How literal and symbolic meaning from verses the interpreted by the ritual participants .

With runway said , article This arranged as contribution to study interdisciplinary that combines religious studies , anthropology culture , and studies Islam contemporary . Research This expected can open room discourse new about the role of the Qur'an in life daily Muslims , with focus on the ritual traditions that have take root strong in Javanese culture .

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD



## Research Design

Study This use approach qualitative descriptive designed For explore and describe integration verses of the Qur'an in the Nyadran ritual in the Muslim community of Central Java. Approach qualitative chosen Because allow excavation meaning , perception , and experience subjective of the participants through method in-depth data collection . Data analysis was carried out with approach thematic that identifies patterns and themes main from the collected data .

## Location and Context Study

Study implemented in the Central Java region, considering area This is one of center the implementation of the Nyadran ritual which is rich in traditions and values local . Election location done purposively with consider activity Muslim community as well existence religious figures who have influence in implementation rite religious .

## Participant

Amount participants involved in study This as many as 20 people, consisting of on religious figures , Nyadran ritual practitioners , and members active community in activity religious those . Criteria election participants is those who have experienced for at least ten year in follow or manage the nyadran ritual and have knowledge deep about meaning prayer and dhikr .

## Data collection technique

Data collection was carried out using two techniques main , namely :

*Focus Group Discussion (FGD)* : FGD was conducted with involving 20 participants use dig perception , experience , and interpretation to integration verses of the Qur'an in procession prayer and dhikr ritual Nyadran . Discussion This facilitated by a moderator who has experienced and using guide semi- structured questions For ensure coverage discussion since beginning until end of ritual.

*Ritual Documentation* : Researcher do observation live and document implementation of the nyadran ritual through audio, video and photo recordings . Documentation This aiming For obtain visual and narrative data regarding procedures implementation prayer and dhikr as well as integration verses of the Qur'an in the ritual .

## Procedure Data collection

Stages data collection begins with introduction and introduction to community local . Furthermore , an FGD was conducted which took place for two days consecutive with each session duration four hours. Every FGD sessions focused on several theme main , among others: (1) the spiritual meaning of prayer and dhikr in nyadran ; (2) interpretation Al-Qur'an verses used in ritual; (3) dynamics interaction between ritual participants ; and (4) changes meaning of ritual along current development . Documentation the ritual is carried out in a way simultaneous with FGD, so that data can be obtained each other complete .

## Data analysis

Data collected analyzed use approach thematic . Analysis process done through steps :

*Data Reduction* : Transcript data from FGD and results ritual documentation reduced with method grouping information based on themes main and sub- themes that emerged during discussion .



*Codification* : Next , the data is encoded. with label each related unit of analysis with integration Al-Qur'an verses , prayers , and dhikr as well as aspect emerging cultural in the Nyadran ritual .

*Theme Matrix Creation* : Formation matrix theme done For map connection between category and for compile framework comprehensive analysis .

*Interpretation and Validation Findings* : Results of analysis Then interpreted in a way deep use approach Phenomenology of religion and ethnography . The validity of the data is guaranteed. through member checking with involving participants as well as through a peer review process by colleagues researcher .

### Literature Review

As base theoretical , research This review 25 articles indexed by Scopus which discusses Islamic rituals , implementation verses of the Qur'an, as well as the concept of living Quran in context culture local . Literature review This give deep understanding about relevance and weaknesses studies previously , so that help in compilation framework more analysis integrated and comprehensive .

### Limitations Study

Although study This has designed in a way comprehensive , there is a number of necessary limitations acknowledged , among others: *first* , limitations in amount participants who only covers one area in Central Java, so that generalization findings to context national must done with be careful . *Second* , the potential for bias in nature of data collection subjective , though attempted For minimized through data validation sustainable . *Third* , Limitations time and resources the power that causes deepening a number of possible ritual aspects Still own another dimension that has not been affordable in study this . With consider all over aspect methodology above , research This expected can give a comprehensive overview about integration verses of the Qur'an in the Nyadran ritual as well as open room For study more further which is of a nature interdisciplinary .

## 3. RESULTSS AND DISCUSSION

### Research result

The results of the study show that the use of the Quran in death rites and death commemorations in Javanese society has undergone a significant transformation of meaning. The main findings consist of three main aspects: symbolic transformation, the social function of the rite, and the dynamics of interpretation of verses in ritual mantras.

### Results

Research result disclose a number of findings important related integration Al-Qur'an verses in the Nyadran ritual . Based on thematic data analysis , there are two themes the main aspects that emerge are : Spiritual Emphasis in Prayer and Zikr and the Implementation of Living Quran Values in Ritual Practices .

### 1. Spiritual Emphasis in Prayer and Zikr





Data obtained from FGD and documentation show that prayer and dhikr is core elements that harmonize implementation of the Nyadran ritual . The participants disclose that every series the prayer that is recited during Nyadran always accompanied by with reading verses of the Qur'an that have meaning deep . For example , related verses with protection , blessings and guidance life chosen in a way careful For give spirit and motivation for ritual participants . One of religious figures interviewed states : " Prayer and dhikr in Nyadran No just series speech , but rather a medium for internalize meaning life contained in the Qur'an. Every verses that are read contain spiritual message that is able change perception life people ." ( Suryadi , 2022, p. 112)

Findings This consistent with literature that shows that spiritual aspects in religious rituals become bridge between text holy with life everyday life (Fauzi, 2022; Jamaluddin, 2021). In addition , data analysis revealed that reading prayer and dhikr done in a way collective , creating Spirit togetherness and solidarity between participants . Collective process This allow existence exchange experience and meaning in a way directly , so that strengthen identity religious and social public .

## 2. Implementation of Living Quran Values in Ritual Practice

Research result show that integration Al-Qur'an verses on the Nyadran ritual No only nature symbolic , but has implemented as mark living life ( living Koran). Draft This reflected from use verses certain that are considered able to " inspire " moral and spiritual improvement among participants . One of the findings interesting is existence election verses that are specific contain element prayer and dhikr , so that create pattern interactions that are of a nature dynamic and reflective . Participants explain that reading verses of the Qur'an during Nyadran help they in face various problem life as well as grow spirit of mutual cooperation and solidarity social . As put forward by one of the Ustadz : " Implementation of the living Quran in Nyadran make the Qur'an not only viewed as a holy book , but as source living and relevant inspiration with condition society . Through prayers and dhikr , divine messages can translated to in action concrete everyday ." (Hasyim, 2023, p. 89)

Observation direct to implementation of the nyadran ritual disclose that use the verses of the Qur'an are designed such that appearance to be in harmony with condition life contemporary . This is seen from method ritual narrator translates verses the with easy language understood as well as link it with reality social and cultural local . Findings This Then reflected in form living Quran theme that combines between text holy and experience life .

### Thematic Patterns and Integration Categories

From the results analysis thematic , following is patterns and categories main thing that emerged : (1) *Integration Prayer and Dhikr* : The ritual participants emphasize importance continuity between prayer , dhikr , and reading the verses of the Qur'an as a integrated system . (2) *Contextual Reading of Verses* : Verses that are read customized with conditions and needs society , so that produce flexible interpretation However meaningful . (3) *Communal & Interactive Rituals* : The process of carrying out rituals which are of a communal create dynamics interaction between individual as well as strengthen network social in community .



(4) *Spiritual and Moral Dimension* : Every reading and prayer contain moral messages and spiritual values that educate the participants For Keep going repair self . Whole findings underline that integration verses of the Qur'an in the Nyadran ritual own function double , namely as connector spiritual values and as agent change social . Analysis more carry on show that pattern systematic use of rituals This has proven capable give impact positive to improvement quality life religious and social public .

### Discussion

Discussion findings study directed at efforts unite understanding empirically obtained with study existing literature . Overall data confirms that integration Al-Qur'an verses in the Nyadran ritual is manifestation real from living Quran concept . In practice , prayer and dhikr contain verses holy functioning as a medium for bridge between text religious with reality life daily .

*First* , the spiritual and symbolic dimensions contained in prayer and dhikr Nyadran show that practice the No just a mechanical ritual , but is a dynamic process emotional and social that foster a sense of togetherness . Findings This in accordance with the concept of the living Quran which states that the messages of the Qur'an must turned on in action real (Mustofa, 2020). The religious figures who participated state that every reading paragraph own resonance at a deep spiritual level , so that can increase faith and belief self For face various challenge life .

*Second* , the results study disclose How element contextual and cultural participate influence method interpretation verses of the Qur'an in Nyadran . Adaptation process text holy to condition social and cultural local has produce flexible and applicable interpretation . As example , in modern day context , some the usual verse used previously has interpreted repeat For reflect values contemporary like tolerance and justice social . Adjustment kind of This supported by literature that shows that adaptation contextual in delivery message religious is key For avoid dogmatism (Rahman & Hidayat, 2022; Sulistyo , 2021).

Next , integration verses of the Qur'an in Nyadran own implications significant to formation identity social and religious community . Rituals that are interactive and collective This No only create receptacle for spiritual dialogue, but also to strengthen network social support solidarity inter-member society . This is in line with results studies previous one that shows that practice religious collective capable increase cohesion social as well as strengthen values humanity (Fauzi, 2022; Jamaluddin, 2021).

Another interesting aspect is dynamics essential prayer and dhikr in transformation meaning text holy . The dhikr that is recited in a way collective own potential therapeutic and can reduce pressure emotional , at the same time actualize stated moral values in verses of the Qur'an. Concept This indicates that ritual practices , although nature traditional , have ability high adaptive For respond changing times and environment social .

From the perspective theoretical , research This contribute development the concept of living Quran with emphasize that text holy No again static, but dynamic in accordance with context and needs people . Approach phenomenology of religion and ethnography used in study



This give framework possible thinking interpretation deep on meaning verses of the Qur'an in ritual life . In line with theory interaction symbolic , nyadran ritual can seen as room social that makes symbols religious , in form prayer and dhikr , become agent formation identity (Mulyana, 2020).

Change meaning of ritual along the walk time , especially in five years lastly , indicating existence dynamics between tradition and modernity . This is underline importance integration the values of the Qur'an in frame respond challenges of the contemporary world without ignore root culture local . With Thus , the Nyadran ritual No only become event worship only , but also a means For internalize values humanity as well as strengthen foundation faith in the midst current globalization .

In general overall , discussion findings in study This highlight importance role the verses of the Qur'an as instrument spiritual and social transformation . Integration of verses in prayers and dhikr of the Nyadran ritual No only represent A form of worship, but also as a capable adaptive strategy harmonize inheritance culture with messages Islam . This is give description comprehensive that the concept of living Quran can applied in practice religious traditional in a way innovative , which ultimately increase quality life religious and social community .

As for the implications in practice , the increase understanding to integration verses of the Qur'an in the Nyadran ritual can made into references by practitioners religious in designing spiritual and social strengthening programs . In addition , the study This offer outlook for researchers furthermore For do exploration cross discipline between religious studies , anthropology , and studies culture in context modernization practice traditional .

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on results and discussions that have been delivered , can concluded that integration Al-Qur'an verses in the Nyadran ritual play role strategic in strengthen spiritual, social and cultural dimensions Muslim community in Central Java. Research This show that : (1) Prayers and dhikr that contain the verses of the Qur'an function as a connecting medium between text holy and life everyday , which supports creation living Quran concept . (2) Implementation Al-Qur'an verses in the Nyadran ritual customized with context social culture local , so that cause adaptive and applicable interpretation to challenges of the modern era. (3) The practice of the Nyadran ritual which is collective and interactive capable increase solidarity social as well as strengthen network faith between member community . (4) Integration of values religious in prayer and dhikr give impact positive to formation identity religious and improvement the moral quality of society .

The existence of the living Quran in the Nyadran ritual illustrate How text the holy Qur'an can internalized and brought to life in practice religious traditional that continues developing . Findings study This give contribution academic in development studies Islam and culture local , as well as offer alternative approach for spiritual strengthening and policy reform more religious inclusive and contextual . With Thus , research This No only enrich treasury





knowledge knowledge , but also encourages in -depth interdisciplinary dialogue between religion, culture and society .

In general implicative , findings This push the need religious policies and programs that accommodate dynamics change of time without remove values sublime traditional . It is expected that the results study This can made into reference for stakeholders interests , especially in designing integration strategies education religious based on community as well as development of strengthening programs spirituality through traditional rituals . Finally , the research This confirm that integration verses of the Qur'an in the Nyadran ritual is a complex and profound phenomenon , rooted in tradition cultural at a time open room innovation in practice faith . Validity of the data obtained through member checking and peer review increasingly to solidify findings , so that give strong foundation as reference academic in the future .

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