

SYEKH MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM FROM AZERBAIJAN WHO PROPAGATED ISLAM IN INDONESIA

 Zaur Aliyev*

ANAS Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Baku, Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan University, Baku, Azerbaijan

Abstract. Malik Ibrahim, known as Kakek Bantal and Sunan Gresik in Indonesia, was one of the followers of Hurufi. Malik Ibrahim Fazlullah bin Abi Muhammad Naimi, whose main goal was to spread Hurufism in Samarkand, was a close comrade-in-arms of Tabrizi. Malik Ibrahim, who came to Samarkand on a special mission and tried to approach the palace of Emir Teymur, realized that he was being followed here and took the name of Makdum Ibrahim al-Samarkandi and went away. Fate brings him to Indonesia, where he begins to spread Islam. Today in Indonesia, he is considered one of the 9 sages. The world-famous film company “Netflix” used the author's research on the introduction of Islam to Indonesia by Azerbaijanis in the Indonesian film “Leyla-Majnun” directed and written by Monty Tiua and co-written by Alim Sudion.

Keywords: *Syekh Maulana Malik Ibrahim, Kakek Bantal, Indonesia.*

***Corresponding Author:** Zaur Aliyev, ANAS Institute of Philosophy and Sociology; Azerbaijan University, Baku, Azerbaijan, e-mail: zaur.aliyev@gmail.com

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1. Introduction

Husnan Bey Fanani, the ambassador of Indonesia to Azerbaijan, said in his statement: “Islam was brought to Indonesia by a cleric named Malik Ibrahim, who lived in the 14th century and came from Samarkand. According to sources, he came to Samarkand from the coast of the Caspian Sea or rather from Azerbaijan. He studied Islam in Samarkand, then came to Indonesia. Thus, Islam spread in Indonesia because of Azerbaijanis.

History

Today, Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world. In this country with a Muslim population of more than 250 million people, the religion of Islam was spread not by sword and military force, but by merchants. The first people who brought Islam to Indonesia did not even aim to propagate this religion, they were simply engaged in shopping here. One of the causes of the spread of Islam in Indonesia was Maulana Malik Ibrahim, who was born in Azerbaijan. Maulana, known as Sunam Girsik or Kakek Bantal, went from Azerbaijan to Samarkand, after receiving religious education, he came to Indonesia and started spreading Islam here. It was with his arrival in Indonesia that the

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religion of Islam began to form in these lands. Also, his children were closely involved in the spread of Islam in Indonesia and worked as well-known clerics (Munif, Drs. Moh. Hasyim, 1995).

Maulana Malik Ibrahim came to this country initially not to spread religion, but to trade and travel. Here, when selling a parka, he sees that the seller is selling cheap fabric at a high price. This makes him very worried: "What did you do? After all, this is not halal. We have eaten the client's right, we must get halal from him".

He immediately starts looking for that customer. He finds out who it is with great difficulty, goes to his house and tells him about the incident, apologizes and returns the excess money. When he leaves, he repeatedly asks her for halal. The customer is amazed: "What does it mean to give halal? We have never heard or seen anything like this before. The difference between the price of the parts is very small. You worked so hard to return the penny to me, you searched for me and found me. Why?". He begins to explain that in our religion we are commanded to earn money lawfully. It is a sin to embezzle even a penny of someone else's money. If a person harms or harms another person, he must apologize and seek forgiveness. Otherwise, he will earn God's wrath.

The news about this action of the Maulana spread from mouth to mouth. Finally, the conversation reached the ears of the ruler of Indonesia. The ruler summoned him and listened to what happened in his own language. Then he asked: "You say that your religion commands you to behave in this way". Tell me about this religion. What is Islam, what must be done to become a Muslim? As Malik Ibrahim talked about Islam, the ruler's sympathy for this religion increased. After receiving information about the main principles of Islam, commands and prohibitions, worship and moral norms that are obligatory for a Muslim, the ruler decided to become a Muslim. After the ruler, the courtiers and then the local governors became Muslims. The people also started to come to Islam voluntarily. Thus, Indonesia became a Muslim country in a short period of time (Van Bruinessen, 1994).

Thanks to this relationship, Malik Ibrahim met the ruling class and nobles. After traveling to Trovulan and meeting with the king of Majapahit, he was given a piece of land on the outskirts of Gresik to use for preaching. Maulana Malik Ibrahim opened Islamic boarding schools to train future Islamic religious leaders. Even now, his grave is still visited by people who appreciate his efforts to spread Islam centuries ago. His habit of placing the Quran on his pillow earned him the nickname Kakek Bantal (Tjandrasasmita, 2009).

He married the daughter of one of the local rulers, whom the Indonesians called Dewi Kandrawulan and had two sons. Having completed his mission in Champa, Malik Ibrahim left his family and returned to Java. He landed in East Java near the modern city of Gresik and began to establish contact with the local inhabitants and trade with them. At that time, Hinduism was widespread on the island. Malik Ibrahim found support among the lower castes, many of whom converted to Islam.

While teaching Islam, he did not scare people with sins and threats, on the contrary, he conveyed it with love, like the message of the Prophet Muhammad. For example, as explained in History of Java by Stamford Raffles quoted by Arman Arroisi, when Sunan Gresik was asked who is God? He did not answer that God is the greatest God who punishes the disobedient and rewards the self-sacrificing. Instead, he gave a simple answer: "God is that which is necessary for His existence" (Cribb & Priest, 2004).

In addition to being skilled in trade and agriculture, Malik Ibrahim also gained the attention and respect of the local people in the field of medicine. With the medicine he

prepared, almost all the people who sought treatment were cured. He did not charge any fees while practicing medicine. Due to this sincerity of service, he is becoming more and more a respected and recognized person in the society.

He is regarded as a friend of God in Indonesia. Today in Indonesia, he is considered one of the 9 sages. There is a mosque and a street named after him in Indonesia. His name occupies one of the leading places in Indonesian history books. He is considered the teacher of Indonesian religious representatives (<https://axar.az/news/hadise/201335.html>).

According to legend, while traveling one day, he saw people preparing to sacrifice a girl to the gods to end a drought. He stopped them and asked God for rain. His prayer was heard, and after seeing such a miracle, the people who went to perform human sacrifice accepted Islam.

Maulana Malik died on April 7, 1419 and was buried in the village of Gapura - Gresik, East Java. On his grave is a tombstone with the words "This is the grave of a man who will be forgiven by God and honored with happiness by the Most Merciful, a teacher of princes, an advisor to sultans and ministers, a friend of the Ummah" poor and disadvantaged. Malik Ibrahim, a great religious teacher known for his kindness. May God have mercy and grace on him and enter him into Paradise. He died on the 12th of Rabi al-Awwal, 822 Hijri.

2. Conclusion

When both of Abraham's sons came of age, he spread Islam to Java. The eldest, Ali Rahmatullah, better known as Sunan Ampel, is himself a member of Governor Songo. The name of the youngest was Ali Murtada. Ibrahim's work in eastern Java was continued by Raden Paku (later known as Susuhunan Giri) in Giri (now part of Jepara Regency in Central Java) and Raden Rahmat, who founded an Islamic school in Ngampel near Surabaya (Philly & White, 2008).

The city administration of Gresik holds a festival in honor of Ibrahim's birthday every year. Known as Gebyar Maulid, the festival also helps promote local culture

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