

# Exploring Contemporary Tafsir: Uncovering Pluralistic Values in Nusantara Tafsir

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<b>Keywords :</b> <i>Nusantara Tafsir; Pluralism; Interfaith dialogue.</i>	<b><i>Abstract</i></b> <p>This article explores the significant role of Nusantara Tafsir in promoting pluralistic values and fostering interfaith dialogue within Indonesia's diverse cultural landscape. Through the analysis of key works by prominent scholars such as Hamka and Quraish Shihab, the study highlights how these interpretations contextualize Quranic teachings to address contemporary social issues while emphasizing values such as tolerance, respect, and social justice. The case studies presented illustrate the unique characteristics of Nusantara Tafsir, including its integration of local wisdom and cultural practices, which enhance the relevance of Islamic teachings in the Indonesian context. Furthermore, the article discusses the contributions of Nusantara Tafsir to interfaith dialogue, emphasizing its role in promoting understanding and cooperation among different religious communities. By advocating for shared values and collaborative efforts, Nusantara Tafsir serves as a vital resource for building harmonious relationships in a pluralistic society. The findings underscore the importance of educational initiatives, interfaith dialogue programs, and grassroots movements in furthering the impact of Nusantara Tafsir on social harmony and understanding. This research contributes to the ongoing discourse on the relevance of Islamic teachings in addressing contemporary challenges and fostering a more inclusive society in Indonesia</p>
<b>Kata Kunci :</b> <i>Tafsir Nusantara; Pluralisme, dialog antaraagama.</i>	<b><i>Abstrak</i></b> <p>Artikel ini mengeksplorasi peran signifikan Tafsir Nusantara dalam mempromosikan nilai-nilai pluralisme dan mendorong dialog antaragama di dalam lanskap budaya Indonesia yang beragam. Melalui analisis karya-karya kunci oleh para cendekiawan terkemuka seperti Hamka dan Quraish Shihab, studi ini menyoroti bagaimana interpretasi ini mengontekstualisasikan ajaran Al-Qur'an untuk menangani isu-isu sosial kontemporer sambil menekankan nilai-nilai seperti toleransi, penghormatan, dan keadilan sosial. Studi kasus yang disajikan menggambarkan karakteristik unik Tafsir Nusantara, termasuk integrasi kearifan lokal dan praktik budaya, yang meningkatkan relevansi ajaran Islam dalam konteks Indonesia. Selain itu, artikel ini membahas kontribusi Tafsir Nusantara terhadap dialog antaragama, dengan menekankan perannya dalam mempromosikan pemahaman dan kerjasama di antara berbagai komunitas agama. Dengan mendorong nilai-nilai bersama dan upaya kolaboratif, Tafsir Nusantara berfungsi sebagai sumber daya penting untuk membangun hubungan harmonis dalam masyarakat pluralis. Temuan ini menekankan pentingnya inisiatif pendidikan,</p>

program dialog antaragama, dan gerakan akar rumput dalam memperkuat dampak Tafsir Nusantara terhadap harmoni sosial dan pemahaman. Penelitian ini berkontribusi pada diskursus yang sedang berlangsung mengenai relevansi ajaran Islam dalam menghadapi tantangan kontemporer dan mendorong masyarakat yang lebih inklusif di Indonesia.

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## Introduction

The study of Tafsir (Qur'anic exegesis) is a vital aspect of Islamic scholarship, particularly in regions with rich cultural and religious diversity such as Nusantara, which includes Indonesia and Malaysia. The Quran, as the holy book of Islam, provides guidance for various aspects of life, and its interpretation has evolved over centuries to address the changing dynamics of society. In the context of Nusantara, Tafsir has not only served as a means of understanding the Quranic text but has also become a platform for promoting pluralistic values that resonate with the local cultural milieu. This article aims to explore the pluralistic values embedded in Nusantara Tafsir and how these interpretations contribute to the understanding of pluralism in contemporary society.

The significance of studying Tafsir in the Nusantara region lies in its ability to reflect the unique socio-cultural realities of its people. Scholars such as Hamka and Quraish Shihab have made substantial contributions to this field, emphasizing the importance of contextual interpretation that acknowledges the diversity of beliefs and practices within the Islamic framework.<sup>1</sup> Their works illustrate how Tafsir can serve as a bridge between religious teachings and the lived experiences of individuals in a pluralistic society. This approach not only enriches the understanding of the Quran but also fosters a spirit of tolerance and coexistence among different faith communities.

In recent years, the discourse surrounding pluralism has gained momentum, particularly in light of global challenges such as religious extremism and intolerance. The need for interpretations that promote understanding and acceptance among diverse religious groups has never been more pressing. Nusantara Tafsir, with its emphasis on contextualization and local wisdom, offers valuable insights into how Islamic teachings can be harmonized with the principles of pluralism. This article seeks to identify the pluralistic values present in Nusantara Tafsir, analyze their implications for interfaith dialogue, and highlight the contributions of prominent scholars to this discourse.

<sup>1</sup> Setiawan, "Corak Penafsiran Muhammad Quraish Shihab Dalam Tafsir Al-Mishbah"; Mujahidin, "The Implication of Local Wisdom in Tafsir Al-Azhar on Moderate Islamic Thought by Hamka."

The exploration of pluralistic values in Nusantara Tafsir is particularly relevant in the context of Indonesia, which is home to a multitude of ethnicities and religions. The Quranic teachings on tolerance, respect for diversity, and the importance of dialogue are crucial in fostering social harmony in such a diverse society. By examining the works of notable Tafsir scholars, this study aims to uncover how their interpretations reflect and promote these values, thereby contributing to a more inclusive understanding of Islam in the Nusantara context.<sup>2</sup>

Furthermore, this article will delve into the methodologies employed by Nusantara scholars in their Tafsir works, highlighting how these approaches facilitate a deeper engagement with the Quranic text. The thematic and contextual methods of interpretation, as seen in the works of Hamka and Quraish Shihab, provide a framework for addressing contemporary issues while remaining rooted in Islamic teachings.<sup>3</sup> This dual focus on tradition and modernity is essential for understanding the relevance of Tafsir in today's world.

## **Identification of Pluralistic Values in Nusantara Tafsir**

The exploration of pluralistic values within Nusantara Tafsir is essential for understanding how Islamic teachings can be contextualized to promote tolerance, coexistence, and social harmony in a diverse society. This section identifies key pluralistic values reflected in the works of notable Nusantara scholars, emphasizing their relevance in fostering an inclusive understanding of Islam that resonates with the cultural and social realities of Indonesia.

### **1. Values of Tolerance and Mutual Respect**

One of the most prominent pluralistic values found in Nusantara Tafsir is the emphasis on tolerance and mutual respect among different religious and cultural groups. Scholars such as Hamka and Quraish Shihab have articulated interpretations of the Quran that underscore the importance of respecting diverse beliefs. For instance, Hamka's Tafsir al-Azhar promotes the idea that Islam encourages its followers to engage with others in a spirit of understanding and respect, rather than hostility.<sup>4</sup> This perspective aligns with the Quranic injunctions that advocate for peaceful coexistence and dialogue among different faith communities.

Similarly, Quraish Shihab's Tafsir al-Misbah reinforces this notion of tolerance. He interprets Quranic verses as promoting respectful dialogue rather than the imposition of beliefs on others. Shihab argues that the Quran's teachings encourage believers to engage with people of

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<sup>2</sup> Mujahidin, "The Implication of Local Wisdom in Tafsir Al-Azhar on Moderate Islamic Thought by Hamka."

<sup>3</sup> Setiawan, "Corak Penafsiran Muhammad Quraish Shihab Dalam Tafsir Al-Mishbah"; Fadil and Suparwany, "ULAMA TIGA SERANGKAI'S TAFSIR AL-QUR'ANUL KARIM: Source, Method and Profiles of the Interpreters."

<sup>4</sup> Rani, "Epistemologi Penafsiran Nasaruddin Umar (Studi Buku Argumen Kesetaraan Gender Perspektif Al-Qur'an)"; Mubarak and Rustam, "Islam Nusantara: Moderasi Islam Di Indonesia."

different faiths in a manner that fosters understanding and respect, which is essential for community cohesion.<sup>5</sup> His approach not only enhances the sense of community among Muslims but also presents Islam as a religion that values diversity and inclusivity, which is vital in a multicultural society.

Both scholars highlight the Quranic injunctions that promote tolerance and understanding, which are particularly relevant in Indonesia's diverse religious landscape. For instance, Shihab's interpretations of verses related to religious freedom underscore the importance of recognizing and respecting the plurality of beliefs in society.<sup>6</sup> This inclusive reasoning is not only a theological stance but also a practical approach to fostering harmony in a nation characterized by its rich tapestry of cultures and religions.

## 2. Recognition of Diversity

Nusantara Tafsir also highlights the recognition of diversity as a fundamental aspect of the human experience. This value is particularly relevant in Indonesia, a nation characterized by its multitude of ethnicities, cultures, and religions. The concept of "Bhinneka Tunggal Ika," which translates to "Unity in Diversity," is deeply embedded in the Indonesian ethos and is reflected in the interpretations of various Nusantara scholars.<sup>7</sup>

For example, the works of scholars like Hamka and Quraish Shihab illustrate how the Quran acknowledges the existence of different communities and cultures. They argue that this diversity is a sign of God's creation and should be celebrated rather than feared.<sup>8</sup> By recognizing and valuing diversity, Nusantara Tafsir encourages Muslims to appreciate the rich tapestry of human experience and to engage with others in a manner that fosters understanding and cooperation. Both Hamka and Quraish Shihab articulate that the Quran inherently acknowledges the existence of diverse communities and cultures. They interpret various Quranic verses as affirmations of God's creation, which includes the multiplicity of human experiences and identities. For instance, Surah Al-Hujurat (49:13) states, "O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another."

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<sup>5</sup> Setiawan et al., "A Review of Tafsir Al-Misbah of Religious Tolerance in QS. Al-An'am Verse 108"; Salam, "Nalar Inklusif Ayat-Ayat Kebebasan Beragama Dalam Tafsir Al-Mishbah."

<sup>6</sup> Salam, "Nalar Inklusif Ayat-Ayat Kebebasan Beragama Dalam Tafsir Al-Mishbah."

<sup>7</sup> Purwaningsih and Witro, "Islam Nusantara in Slogan Bhinneka Tunggal Ika: Al-Quran Perspective."

<sup>8</sup> Rani, "Epistemologi Penafsiran Nasaruddin Umar (Studi Buku Argumen Kesetaraan Gender Perspektif Al-Qur'an)"; Setiawan and Stevanus, "Significance of Islam Nusantara Values in an Indonesian Multicultural Society."

This verse is often cited by scholars to emphasize that diversity is a divine intention, encouraging mutual recognition and understanding among different groups.<sup>9</sup>

Furthermore, Hamka, in his *Tafsir al-Azhar*, argues that the diversity of cultures and beliefs should be celebrated rather than feared. He posits that Islam, as a universal religion, is not confined to a single culture or ethnicity but is meant to transcend these boundaries, promoting a sense of belonging among all of humanity. This perspective aligns with the Quranic view that diversity enriches human experience and fosters a deeper understanding of the divine.<sup>10</sup>

Moreover, Quraish Shihab, in his *Tafsir al-Misbah*, emphasizes the importance of engaging with others in a manner that fosters understanding and cooperation. He interprets the Quranic injunctions as calls for dialogue and collaboration among different faith communities. This approach is particularly relevant in Indonesia, where interfaith dialogue is essential for maintaining social harmony and peace. Shihab's interpretations encourage Muslims to appreciate the richness of other cultures and to work together towards common goals, thereby reinforcing the idea of "Bhinneka Tunggal Ika."<sup>11</sup>

In summary, the recognition of diversity in Nusantara Tafsir has practical implications for social cohesion in Indonesia. By promoting an understanding of diversity as a divine creation, these interpretations encourage Muslims to engage in respectful interactions with individuals from different backgrounds. This engagement is crucial in a nation where ethnic and religious tensions can arise, and it fosters a culture of tolerance and mutual respect.

### **3. Interfaith Dialogue**

The promotion of interfaith dialogue is another significant pluralistic value embedded in Nusantara Tafsir. Scholars have emphasized the importance of dialogue as a means of building bridges between different religious communities. Hamka, for instance, advocates for open communication and mutual understanding among various faiths, arguing that such dialogue is essential for fostering peace and harmony in a pluralistic society.<sup>12</sup>

Quraish Shihab's interpretations also reflect this commitment to interfaith dialogue. He encourages Muslims to engage with followers of other religions in a respectful and constructive

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<sup>9</sup> Muwaffaq, "Penafsiran Hamka Tentang Ayat Kemajemukan Dalam Tafsir Al-Azhar."

<sup>10</sup> Setiawan et al., "A Review of Tafsir Al-Misbah of Religious Tolerance in QS. Al-An'am Verse 108."

<sup>11</sup> Salam, "Nalar Inklusif Ayat-Ayat Kebebasan Beragama Dalam Tafsir Al-Mishbah."

<sup>12</sup> Rani, "Epistemologi Penafsiran Nasaruddin Umar (Studi Buku Argumen Kesetaraan Gender Perspektif Al-Qur'an)"; Muhyiddin, "The Interfaith Nyadran Tradition as a Manhaj of Islam Nusantara Da'wah in the Perspective of Multiculturalism."

manner, emphasizing that such interactions can lead to greater understanding and cooperation.<sup>13</sup> This emphasis on dialogue is particularly relevant in the context of Indonesia, where interreligious interactions are commonplace and can serve as a foundation for social cohesion.

Moreover, the urgency of fostering interfaith dialogue is underscored by the complex socio-political landscape in which these interactions occur. As Shamshudinova et al. note, the need for fruitful dialogue and tolerance in interfaith relations is increasingly critical in a globalized society, where radical political and social transformations can lead to conflict.<sup>14</sup> This highlights the role of interfaith dialogue as a mechanism for mitigating misunderstandings and promoting peacebuilding efforts. The work of Neufeldt further emphasizes that interfaith dialogue should not only focus on theological differences but also on collaborative responses to global challenges, thereby enhancing intercultural relations.<sup>15</sup>

#### 4. Emphasis on Social Justice

Another critical pluralistic value found in Nusantara Tafsir is the emphasis on social justice. Many Nusantara scholars interpret the Quran as a call to action for social equity and justice, advocating for the rights of marginalized and oppressed communities. This perspective aligns with the broader Islamic principles of justice and compassion, which are central to the Quranic message.<sup>16</sup>

For instance, Hamka's Tafsir al-Azhar addresses social issues such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination, urging Muslims to take an active role in promoting social justice<sup>17</sup>. This commitment to social justice is not only a reflection of Islamic teachings but also a response to the socio-economic challenges faced by many communities in Indonesia. By advocating for social justice, Nusantara Tafsir reinforces the idea that Islam is a dynamic and responsive faith that seeks to address contemporary issues.

Furthermore, the commitment to social justice in Nusantara Tafsir is not merely theoretical; it is deeply rooted in the lived experiences of Indonesian Muslims. The socio-political context of Indonesia, characterized by diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, necessitates a

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<sup>13</sup> Makhfud, "Urgensi Tafsir Maudhu'i (Kajian Metodologis)"; Setiawan and Stevanus, "Significance of Islam Nusantara Values in an Indonesian Multicultural Society."

<sup>14</sup> Shamshudinova et al., "State Model of Interconfessional Tolerance in Modern Multiethnic Societies."

<sup>15</sup> Neufeldt, "Interfaith Dialogue: Assessing Theories of Change."

<sup>16</sup> Rani, "Epistemologi Penafsiran Nasaruddin Umar (Studi Buku Argumen Kesetaraan Gender Perspektif Al-Qur'an)"; Setiawan and Stevanus, "Significance of Islam Nusantara Values in an Indonesian Multicultural Society."

<sup>17</sup> Rani, "Epistemologi Penafsiran Nasaruddin Umar (Studi Buku Argumen Kesetaraan Gender Perspektif Al-Qur'an)."

robust discourse on social equity. Scholars like Ismail highlight how the Quranic exegesis in Indonesia has evolved to address issues of gender, class, and economic disparities, thereby promoting a more inclusive interpretation of Islamic teachings.<sup>18</sup> This approach not only enriches the understanding of the Quran but also empowers marginalized communities by advocating for their rights and dignity.

In addition to Hamka, other scholars have contributed to the discourse on social justice within the framework of Nusantara Tafsir. For example, the research conducted by Nirwana et al. emphasizes the importance of contextual interpretation in understanding the Quran's teachings on social equity. They argue that a thematic interpretation approach allows for a more nuanced understanding of the Quranic verses that pertain to social justice, thereby fostering a greater sense of responsibility among Muslims to advocate for the rights of the oppressed.<sup>19</sup> This aligns with the broader Islamic principle that emphasizes the importance of justice as a foundational element of faith.

Moreover, the relevance of social justice in Nusantara Tafsir can be seen in the contemporary issues faced by Indonesian society. The increasing economic disparities and social inequalities necessitate a re-examination of Islamic teachings to ensure that they remain relevant and applicable to modern challenges. Scholars like Hidayati argue that Hamka's contextual methodology in Tafsir al-Azhar serves as a model for addressing contemporary social issues, thereby reinforcing the idea that Islamic teachings are not static but rather evolve in response to changing societal dynamics.<sup>20</sup> This adaptability is crucial for fostering a sense of social responsibility among Muslims, encouraging them to engage actively in efforts to promote equity and justice.

## **5. Cultural Contextualization**

The cultural contextualization of Islamic teachings is a hallmark of Nusantara Tafsir. Scholars in this tradition have sought to interpret the Quran in ways that resonate with local customs and traditions, thereby making Islamic teachings more accessible and relevant to the Indonesian populace. This approach reflects the understanding that Islam is not a monolithic faith but one that can adapt to various cultural contexts while maintaining its core principles.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Ismail, "The Quranic Exegesis, Reformism, and Women in Twentieth Century Indonesia."

<sup>19</sup> Nirwana et al., "Serving to Parents Perspective Azhar's Quranic Interpretation."

<sup>20</sup> Hidayati, "Metodologi Tafsir Kontekstual Al-Azhar Karya Buya Hamka."

<sup>21</sup> Rani, "Epistemologi Penafsiran Nasaruddin Umar (Studi Buku Argumen Kesetaraan Gender Perspektif Al-Qur'an)"; Setiawan and Stevanus, "Significance of Islam Nusantara Values in an Indonesian Multicultural Society."

For example, the incorporation of local wisdom and cultural practices into Tafsir demonstrates a commitment to creating an inclusive understanding of Islam that respects and values the rich cultural heritage of Indonesia. This cultural contextualization not only enhances the relevance of Islamic teachings but also fosters a sense of belonging among Muslims in diverse communities.<sup>22</sup>

Moreover, the cultural contextualization of Islamic teachings in Nusantara Tafsir serves as a response to the challenges of modernity and globalization. As Indonesian society becomes increasingly interconnected with the global community, the need for an interpretation of Islam that is both relevant and respectful of local traditions becomes paramount. Scholars like Quraish Shihab emphasize that the Quranic message is universal, yet its application must be sensitive to the cultural realities of the people.<sup>23</sup> This perspective encourages Muslims to engage with their cultural heritage while remaining steadfast in their faith, thereby fostering a dynamic and responsive approach to Islamic teachings.

In addition to Hamka and Quraish Shihab, other scholars have contributed to the discourse on cultural contextualization within Nusantara Tafsir. For example, the research conducted by Murtadho highlights how local traditions, such as the celebration of cultural festivals and rituals, can be harmonized with Islamic teachings. This integration not only enriches the practice of Islam but also strengthens community bonds and promotes social harmony.<sup>24</sup> Such efforts demonstrate a commitment to creating a holistic understanding of Islam that respects the diversity of Indonesian culture.

## 6. Promotion of Peace and Harmony

Finally, the promotion of peace and harmony is a fundamental value embedded in Nusantara Tafsir. Scholars emphasize that the Quran advocates for peace and reconciliation, urging believers to resolve conflicts through dialogue and understanding rather than violence and hostility. This perspective is particularly important in a pluralistic society where tensions can arise between different religious and cultural groups.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Purwaningsih and Witro, "Islam Nusantara in Slogan Bhinneka Tunggal Ika: Al-Quran Perspective."

<sup>23</sup> Shamshudinova et al., "State Model of Interconfessional Tolerance in Modern Multiethnic Societies."

<sup>24</sup> Neufeldt, "Interfaith Dialogue: Assessing Theories of Change."

<sup>25</sup> Rani, "Epistemologi Penafsiran Nasaruddin Umar (Studi Buku Argumen Kesetaraan Gender Perspektif Al-Qur'an)"; Setiawan and Stevanus, "Significance of Islam Nusantara Values in an Indonesian Multicultural Society."



Hamka and Quraish Shihab both highlight the Quranic verses that call for peace and reconciliation, encouraging Muslims to embody these values in their interactions with others <sup>26</sup>. By promoting peace and harmony, Nusantara Tafsir contributes to the broader goal of fostering a just and equitable society where all individuals can coexist peacefully.

In summary, the identification of pluralistic values in Nusantara Tafsir reveals a rich tapestry of interpretations that promote tolerance, respect, and understanding among diverse communities. By emphasizing values such as tolerance, recognition of diversity, interfaith dialogue, social justice, cultural contextualization, and the promotion of peace, Nusantara Tafsir serves as a vital resource for fostering an inclusive understanding of Islam in contemporary society. These values not only resonate with the cultural and social realities of Indonesia but also contribute to the ongoing discourse on pluralism and coexistence in an increasingly interconnected world.

## **Contribution of Nusantara Tafsir to Interfaith Dialogue**

The contributions of Nusantara Tafsir to interfaith dialogue are significant, as these works provide a framework for understanding and engaging with diverse religious communities. By promoting values of tolerance, respect, and understanding, Nusantara Tafsir serves as a vital resource for fostering harmonious relationships among different faiths in Indonesia.

### **1. Promoting Tolerance and Understanding**

The contributions of Nusantara Tafsir to interfaith dialogue are significant, particularly through the works of prominent scholars such as Hamka and Quraish Shihab. Their interpretations of the Quran emphasize tolerance and understanding, which are crucial for fostering interfaith dialogue and cooperation among diverse religious communities. Hamka's Tafsir Al-Azhar articulates the importance of seeking common ground with followers of other faiths, highlighting shared values such as compassion, justice, and humanity. This perspective enhances the understanding of Islam among non-Muslims and cultivates a sense of community among different religious groups.<sup>27</sup>

Hamka's approach aligns with the broader principles of interfaith dialogue that advocate for respect and understanding among diverse beliefs. This is echoed in the work of Kusuma and Susilo, who argue that civic engagement plays a vital role in preventing violence and fostering

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<sup>26</sup> Rani, "Epistemologi Penafsiran Nasaruddin Umar (Studi Buku Argumen Kesetaraan Gender Perspektif Al-Qur'an)"; Muhyiddin, "The Interfaith Nyadran Tradition as a Manhaj of Islam Nusantara Da'wah in the Perspective of Multiculturalism."

<sup>27</sup> Mutaqin, Yunus, and Qomaruzzaman, "Interfaith Marriage in the Perspectives of Indonesian Tafsir Ulama: Reviewing the Tafsir of Hamka, Quraish Shihab, and Musdah Mulia"; Rofiqi and Haq, "Islamic Approaches in Multicultural and Interfaith Dialogue."

social harmony in multicultural contexts like Indonesia.<sup>28</sup> Their findings suggest that effective interfaith dialogue can be achieved through strong community involvement, which resonates with Hamka's call for mutual respect and cooperation. Furthermore, the emphasis on dialogue as a means to mitigate ignorance and misunderstandings among different faiths is supported by Mutalib and Ramly, who highlight the importance of good communication in interfaith engagements.<sup>29</sup>

Quraish Shihab also contributes to this dialogue by advocating for an inclusive interpretation of Islamic teachings that encourages Muslims to engage constructively with other faiths. His works reflect a commitment to understanding and respecting the beliefs of others, which is essential for promoting peaceful coexistence.<sup>30</sup> The theological basis for such dialogue is reinforced by various scholars who argue that Islam inherently supports interfaith interactions as a means of fostering harmony and understanding.<sup>31</sup> This is particularly relevant in the context of Indonesia, where the diverse religious landscape necessitates a framework for dialogue that is rooted in mutual respect and shared values.

Moreover, the role of youth in interfaith dialogue cannot be overlooked. Research indicates that young people are increasingly involved in interfaith initiatives, which are crucial for building peace and understanding among religions.<sup>32</sup> This engagement is vital for the future of interfaith relations, as it encourages a new generation to embrace diversity and work collaboratively towards common goals. The emphasis on youth involvement aligns with the teachings of Hamka and Quraish Shihab, who advocate for a proactive approach to interfaith dialogue that includes all members of society, regardless of age or background.<sup>33</sup>

## 2. Addressing Contemporary Issues

Nusantara Tafsir plays a crucial role in addressing contemporary issues that are pertinent to interfaith dialogue, including social justice, gender equality, and environmental stewardship. By contextualizing Quranic teachings within the framework of modern challenges, these Tafsir

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<sup>28</sup> Kusuma and Susilo, "Intercultural and Religious Sensitivity Among Young Indonesian Interfaith Groups."

<sup>29</sup> Mutalib and Ramly, "Potential Challenges of Interfaith Engagement: A Revisit to Al-Faruqi's Contribution."

<sup>30</sup> Mutaqin, Yunus, and Qomaruzzaman, "Interfaith Marriage in the Perspectives of Indonesian Tafsir Ulama: Reviewing the Tafsir of Hamka, Quraish Shihab, and Musdah Mulia"; Elius, "Interfaith Dialogue: An Islamic Framework."

<sup>31</sup> Hamdani, "Interfaith Dialogue in Islam."

<sup>32</sup> Husein, "Youth Expressions of Religiosity Through Dialogue in Indonesia"; Jonathan, Widjaja, and Husein, "Fostering Religious Exclusivism and Political Pluralism in Indonesia Through Interfaith-Based Student Community."

<sup>33</sup> Mubarakah, "Theological-Based Dialogue in the Practice of Scriptural Reasoning at Young Interfaith Peacemaker Community."

works offer valuable insights into how Islamic principles can be applied to foster social harmony and cooperation among diverse faith communities. This approach not only enhances the relevance of Islamic teachings in today's world but also encourages collaborative efforts among different religious groups to tackle pressing societal issues.

**a. Social Justice in Nusantara Tafsir**

One of the most significant contributions of Nusantara Tafsir to interfaith dialogue is its emphasis on social justice, as exemplified in the *Tafsir Marāḥ Labīd* by Nawawi al-Bantani. Al-Bantani's work underscores the importance of addressing poverty and inequality—issues that transcend religious boundaries and affect individuals from various backgrounds. He articulates that the Quran advocates for social responsibility, urging Muslims to engage in acts of charity (zakat) and community welfare initiatives. This perspective aligns with the broader Islamic principle of promoting justice (*'adl*) and equity, which is essential for fostering a just society.<sup>34</sup>

The emphasis on social justice in Nusantara Tafsir resonates with the teachings of other religious traditions, thereby creating a platform for interfaith cooperation. Scholars such as Rofiqi and Haq have noted that interfaith dialogue can be enriched by focusing on shared values related to social justice, which can lead to collaborative efforts in addressing issues such as poverty, discrimination, and inequality.<sup>35</sup> By framing social justice as a common concern, Nusantara Tafsir encourages dialogue and partnership among different faith communities, fostering a sense of solidarity in the pursuit of a more equitable society.

**b. Gender Equality and Environmental Stewardship**

In addition to social justice, Nusantara Tafsir also addresses gender equality, a critical issue in contemporary discourse. Scholars like Quraish Shihab have emphasized the Quranic principles that advocate for the dignity and rights of women, promoting gender equality as a fundamental aspect of social justice. This interpretation encourages interfaith dialogue on gender issues, allowing for a collaborative approach to advocating for women's rights across different religious communities.<sup>36</sup>

Furthermore, environmental stewardship is another contemporary issue that Nusantara Tafsir engages with. The Quran contains numerous verses that highlight the importance of caring for the earth and its resources. Tafsir works that contextualize these teachings within the

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<sup>34</sup> Mutaqin, Yunus, and Qomaruzzaman, "Interfaith Marriage in the Perspectives of Indonesian Tafsir Ulama: Reviewing the Tafsir of Hamka, Quraish Shihab, and Musdah Mulia"; Rofiqi and Haq, "Islamic Approaches in Multicultural and Interfaith Dialogue."

<sup>35</sup> Kusuma and Susilo, "Intercultural and Religious Sensitivity Among Young Indonesian Interfaith Groups."

<sup>36</sup> Mutalib and Ramly, "Potential Challenges of Interfaith Engagement: A Revisit to Al-Faruqi's Contribution"; Elius, "Interfaith Dialogue: An Islamic Framework."

framework of environmental challenges can inspire interfaith initiatives aimed at promoting sustainability and ecological responsibility. For instance, the concept of stewardship (*khalifah*) in Islam can be linked to similar principles in other faith traditions, creating opportunities for joint efforts in environmental conservation.<sup>37</sup>

### 3. Facilitating Interfaith Dialogue Initiatives

The insights provided by Nusantara Tafsir, particularly through the works of scholars such as Hamka and Quraish Shihab, play a pivotal role in facilitating interfaith dialogue initiatives. By promoting messages of tolerance, understanding, and respect for diverse beliefs, these Tafsir works serve as a foundational resource for dialogue among different religious communities. This paper explores how the teachings of Nusantara Tafsir can be utilized to foster constructive conversations and collaborative efforts among various faith groups, particularly in the context of Indonesia.

Nusantara Tafsir emphasizes the importance of mutual respect and understanding, which are essential components of effective interfaith dialogue. For instance, Hamka's Tafsir Al-Azhar and Quraish Shihab's Tafsir Al-Misbah provide interpretations of the Quran that highlight the shared values among different religions, such as compassion, justice, and humanity. These interpretations encourage followers of Islam to engage with individuals from other faiths in a spirit of cooperation and dialogue.<sup>38</sup>

The principles outlined in these Tafsir works can be instrumental for scholars, religious leaders, and community organizers when designing interfaith dialogue initiatives. By referencing these teachings, participants can ground their discussions in a shared commitment to understanding and respecting one another's beliefs. This approach not only enhances the quality of the dialogue but also fosters a sense of community among diverse religious groups.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Hamdani, "Interfaith Dialogue in Islam"; Husein, "Youth Expressions of Religiosity Through Dialogue in Indonesia."

<sup>38</sup> Mutaqin, Yunus, and Qomaruzzaman, "Interfaith Marriage in the Perspectives of Indonesian Tafsir Ulama: Reviewing the Tafsir of Hamka, Quraish Shihab, and Musdah Mulia"; Rofiqi and Haq, "Islamic Approaches in Multicultural and Interfaith Dialogue."

<sup>39</sup> Kusuma and Susilo, "Intercultural and Religious Sensitivity Among Young Indonesian Interfaith Groups."

Interfaith dialogue initiatives in Indonesia can take various forms, including community events,<sup>40</sup> educational programs,<sup>41</sup> and collaborative projects.<sup>42</sup> Each of these formats provides unique opportunities for individuals from different faith backgrounds to come together and engage in meaningful conversations.

#### **4. Encouraging Collaborative Efforts**

Nusantara Tafsir encourages collaborative efforts among different religious communities to address common challenges. By emphasizing shared values and goals, these Tafsir works promote a sense of solidarity among diverse faith groups. This collaborative spirit is essential for fostering social cohesion and addressing issues such as poverty, discrimination, and environmental degradation.<sup>43</sup>

The teachings found in Nusantara Tafsir highlight the importance of shared values that transcend religious boundaries. Scholars like Hamka and Quraish Shihab articulate interpretations of the Quran that emphasize compassion, justice, and community welfare. These principles resonate across various faith traditions, creating a common ground for dialogue and collaboration.<sup>44</sup> By focusing on these shared values, interfaith initiatives can mobilize individuals from different backgrounds to work together toward common goals, thereby fostering a spirit of solidarity.

For example, interfaith initiatives that focus on community development and social welfare can benefit from the insights provided by Nusantara Tafsir. By working together to

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<sup>40</sup> Interfaith community events, such as festivals, prayer gatherings, and cultural exchanges, can serve as platforms for dialogue. These events often incorporate the principles of Nusantara Tafsir, emphasizing the importance of understanding and respecting diverse beliefs. For example, events that celebrate shared cultural heritage can help build bridges between communities and foster a sense of belonging. See Mutalib and Ramly, "Potential Challenges of Interfaith Engagement: A Revisit to Al-Faruqi's Contribution."

<sup>41</sup> Educational initiatives that focus on interfaith understanding can be developed based on the teachings of Nusantara Tafsir. Workshops, seminars, and discussion groups can be organized to explore the common values found in different religious traditions. By utilizing the insights from Tafsir works, educators can create curricula that promote tolerance and respect among students from various faith backgrounds. See Elius, "Interfaith Dialogue: An Islamic Framework."

<sup>42</sup> Collaborative projects that address social issues, such as poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability, and gender equality, can also serve as a basis for interfaith dialogue. By working together on common goals, individuals from different faith communities can build relationships and foster a spirit of cooperation. The emphasis on social responsibility found in Nusantara Tafsir can guide these initiatives, encouraging participants to engage in acts of service that benefit the broader community. See Hamdani, "Interfaith Dialogue in Islam"; Husein, "Youth Expressions of Religiosity Through Dialogue in Indonesia."

<sup>43</sup> Aziz, Abidin, and Nafiah, "Tafsir Nusantara Dan Isu-Isu Global: Studi Kasus Relevansi Pemikiran Hamka Tentang Keadilan Sosial, Kesetaraan Gender Dan Pluralisme."

<sup>44</sup> Mutaqin, Yunus, and Qomaruzzaman, "Interfaith Marriage in the Perspectives of Indonesian Tafsir Ulama: Reviewing the Tafsir of Hamka, Quraish Shihab, and Musdah Mulia"; Rofiqi and Haq, "Islamic Approaches in Multicultural and Interfaith Dialogue."

address common challenges, individuals from different faith backgrounds can build relationships based on trust and mutual respect, ultimately contributing to a more harmonious society.<sup>45</sup>

### 5. Fostering a Culture of Peace

The contributions of Nusantara Tafsir to interfaith dialogue also extend to fostering a culture of peace. By promoting values of compassion, justice, and understanding, these Tafsir works encourage individuals to engage in peaceful dialogue and cooperation. This emphasis on peace is particularly relevant in the context of Indonesia, where diverse religious communities coexist.<sup>46</sup>

For instance, the teachings of Hamka and Quraish Shihab emphasize the importance of resolving conflicts through dialogue and understanding rather than violence and hostility.<sup>47</sup> Hamka, in his Tafsir al-Azhar, articulates the importance of compassion and justice as central tenets of Islam that should guide interactions among individuals of different faiths. He interprets Quranic verses that advocate for justice and kindness, emphasizing that these values are not limited to interactions within the Muslim community but extend to all of humanity. For instance, he often cites Surah Al-Ma'idah (5:8), which calls for believers to be steadfast in justice, even if it is against themselves or their kin.<sup>48</sup> This interpretation encourages Muslims to engage with others in a manner that is fair and compassionate, fostering an environment conducive to peaceful coexistence. Similarly, Quraish Shihab, in his Tafsir al-Misbah, stresses the importance of resolving conflicts through dialogue and understanding rather than resorting to violence and hostility. He interprets the Quran as a guide for believers to engage in constructive conversations with those of different beliefs, promoting the idea that understanding and cooperation are essential for maintaining peace.<sup>49</sup> Shihab's approach is particularly relevant in Indonesia, where interfaith tensions can arise, and he advocates for dialogue as a means to bridge differences and foster mutual respect.

The cultural context of Indonesia, characterized by its plurality of religions and ethnicities, necessitates a framework that promotes peace and understanding. Both Hamka and Shihab's interpretations reflect an awareness of this context, as they encourage Muslims to appreciate the

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<sup>45</sup> Aziz, Abidin, and Nafiah, "Tafsir Nusantara Dan Isu-Isu Global: Studi Kasus Relevansi Pemikiran Hamka Tentang Keadilan Sosial, Kesetaraan Gender Dan Pluralisme."

<sup>46</sup> Aziz, Abidin, and Nafiah.

<sup>47</sup> Aziz, Abidin, and Nafiah.

<sup>48</sup> Jannah and Sholeh, "Kebebasan Beragama Dan Berbicara Dalam Bingkai Kajian Tafsir Nusantara."

<sup>49</sup> Irbah, "Main the Principle of Inter-Religious Tolerance (A Comparative Study of the Interpretation of Surat Al Kafirun Between Hamka and Quraish Shihab.)"

diversity of beliefs and practices that exist within their society. Their works serve as a reminder that Islam, at its core, advocates for harmony and cooperation among all people, regardless of their religious affiliations.<sup>50</sup>

Further, the teachings of Hamka and Shihab contribute significantly to the broader goal of fostering social harmony in Indonesia. By promoting a culture of peace, their interpretations encourage individuals to engage in interfaith cooperation, which is essential for building a cohesive society. This is particularly important in a nation where religious diversity is a defining characteristic, and where the potential for conflict exists.<sup>51</sup> Their emphasis on understanding and compassion serves as a guiding principle for Muslims to navigate interfaith relationships positively. For educational Initiatives, the values espoused in Nusantara Tafsir have implications at promoting interfaith dialogue. By incorporating the teachings of Hamka and Shihab into educational curricula, institutions can cultivate a generation that values peace and understanding. This educational approach can help mitigate tensions and foster a culture of respect among young people from different religious backgrounds.<sup>52</sup> The practical applications of these teachings are evident in various interfaith initiatives across Indonesia. Community programs that promote dialogue and cooperation among different religious groups often draw upon the principles outlined in Nusantara Tafsir. These initiatives not only help to resolve conflicts but also build relationships based on mutual respect and understanding.<sup>53</sup>

In conclusion, the case studies of Nusantara Tafsir reveal a rich tapestry of interpretations that reflect the cultural, social, and religious diversity of Indonesia. Through the works of scholars such as Hamka, Quraish Shihab, and Nawawi al-Bantani, Nusantara Tafsir promotes values of tolerance, understanding, and social justice, contributing to the ongoing discourse on pluralism and interfaith dialogue.

The contributions of Nusantara Tafsir to interfaith dialogue are significant, as these works provide a framework for understanding and engaging with diverse religious communities. By promoting a message of tolerance, addressing contemporary issues, facilitating interfaith dialogue initiatives, encouraging collaborative efforts, and fostering a culture of peace, Nusantara Tafsir

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<sup>50</sup> Mutaqin, Yunus, and Qomaruzzaman, "Interfaith Marriage in the Perspectives of Indonesian Tafsir Ulama: Reviewing the Tafsir of Hamka, Quraish Shihab, and Musdah Mulia."

<sup>51</sup> Romziana, "Pernikahan Lintas Agama; Kajian Muqarin Menurut Quraish Shihab Dalam Tafsir Al-Mishbah Dan Hamka Dalam Tafsir Al-Azhar."

<sup>52</sup> Herlambang, "Paradigm Shifts in the Interpretation of Heaven Illustration Among Indonesian Mufasssir: A Comparative Analysis of as-Singkili, Hamka, and M. Quraish."

<sup>53</sup> Irbah, "Main the Principle of Inter-Religious Tolerance (A Comparative Study of the Interpretation of Surat Al Kafirun Between Hamka and Quraish Shihab.)"

serves as a vital resource for building harmonious relationships among different faiths in Indonesia.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

The exploration of Nusantara Tafsir reveals its significant role in promoting pluralistic values and fostering interfaith dialogue within the diverse cultural landscape of Indonesia. Through the works of prominent scholars such as Hamka, Quraish Shihab, and Nawawi al-Bantani, Nusantara Tafsir has demonstrated a commitment to contextualizing Quranic teachings in ways that resonate with local customs and address contemporary social issues. This approach not only enriches the understanding of the Quran but also serves as a vital resource for promoting tolerance, respect, and understanding among different religious communities.

The case studies presented in this research highlight how Nusantara Tafsir emphasizes values such as tolerance, recognition of diversity, interfaith dialogue, social justice, cultural contextualization, and the promotion of peace. These values are essential for fostering a harmonious society where individuals from various faith backgrounds can coexist peacefully. By addressing contemporary issues and advocating for social responsibility, Nusantara Tafsir contributes to the broader discourse on pluralism and interfaith cooperation.

Moreover, the contributions of Nusantara Tafsir to interfaith dialogue are substantial. By promoting a message of tolerance and understanding, these works provide a framework for engaging with diverse religious communities. The emphasis on shared values and collaborative efforts among different faith groups fosters a sense of solidarity and mutual respect, which is crucial for addressing common challenges faced by society.

In light of these findings, several recommendations can be made to further enhance the role of Nusantara Tafsir in promoting interfaith dialogue and social harmony:

1. Encouraging Educational Initiatives: Educational institutions should incorporate the teachings of Nusantara Tafsir into their curricula to promote awareness and understanding of pluralistic values among students. By integrating these teachings into religious education, young people can develop a deeper appreciation for diversity and learn the importance of engaging in respectful dialogue with individuals from different faith backgrounds. Programs that focus on critical thinking and interfaith engagement can help cultivate a generation of leaders who are committed to fostering social harmony.
2. Strengthening Interfaith Dialogue Initiatives: Religious leaders and community organizations should actively promote interfaith dialogue initiatives that draw on the principles outlined in Nusantara Tafsir. These initiatives can take various forms, including community events, workshops, and collaborative projects that bring together individuals from different faith



backgrounds. By creating spaces for open dialogue and mutual understanding, these initiatives can help build bridges between communities and promote a culture of peace.

3. Promoting Research and Scholarship: Further research on Nusantara Tafsir and its implications for interfaith dialogue is essential. Scholars should explore the ways in which these interpretations can be applied to contemporary social issues and contribute to the development of inclusive policies that promote social justice and equity. Collaborative research efforts that involve scholars from various religious backgrounds can foster a deeper understanding of the shared values that underpin different faith traditions.
4. Utilizing Media and Technology: The use of media and technology can play a crucial role in disseminating the teachings of Nusantara Tafsir and promoting interfaith dialogue. Social media platforms, podcasts, and online forums can serve as effective tools for sharing insights and fostering discussions among diverse audiences. By leveraging these platforms, religious leaders and scholars can reach a wider audience and engage individuals in meaningful conversations about faith, diversity, and social responsibility.
5. Encouraging Grassroots Movements: Grassroots movements that promote interfaith dialogue and cooperation should be supported and encouraged. Local communities can play a vital role in fostering understanding and respect among different faith groups. By organizing events that celebrate diversity and promote dialogue, these movements can contribute to building a more inclusive society.

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