

# THE DARKNESS OF THE SEA AND THE ROLE OF THE WIND FROM THE QURANIC PERSPECTIVE

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## Abstract

Al-Quran is one of the scientific miracles which is a proof of the truth Quran also the modern scientific discoveries associated with the sea and the wind. The word wind in Al-Quran used '*riḥ*' as singular and '*riyāḥ*' as plural, while the word of the sea is '*bahr*'. Therefore we should look deeper into the interpretation of verses on the sea and the wind. The focus of this study is to understand the interpretation of verses about wind and oceans, the role of wind to people, and to analyze the connection between the depths of the sea and the darkness of the sea based on Surah An-Naml verse 63. The methodology of this research is qualitative research that include secondary data collection such as books, interpretations, journals, conference paper and thesis that have conformity to discussion of this assignment. This research is a library research, so the data obtained is derived from the study of texts or relevant books. The result will shows that the darkness of the sea actually related with the depth of the sea and the role of the wind is as a driving force of cloud and sailing ships on the ocean as well as an important factor in pollination.

**Keywords:** wind, oceans, Quran, Islam

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Allah SWT has created many things in this world for His servants so that they are always grateful. Through all the creations, there are many benefits that human can obtain because Allah did not create something without good reasons except those who did not feel grateful for all His grace. One of the creations that human can't create except Allah is the creation of sea. Sea or the ocean contains many treasures and enable people to obtain them and become a source of livelihood such as fish, squid, shrimp and many more. All of these seafood existed in the sea so that human can eat it according to the laws and conditions prescribed by Islamic law. In addition, humans also can get other ocean things such as precious pearls and stones that can be used for good. Next, wind is also created by Allah SWT and has benefits in drag-driven force used for rain and an important factor in pollination.

Then, there are many interpretations and scientific studies in detail about the sea and wind. Among of the interpretations that relate to the sea is *Tafsir Ibn Kathir*, *Tafsir Al-Razi*, *Tafsir Alusi* and *Tafsir Tantawi*. While the scientific studies which explain detail about the wind are the book of *Tafsir Al-Misbah Muhammad Quraish Shehab*. The scholars have interpreted the Quranic verses concerning about the sea and the arrival of the wind in the clarification so that the provisions and their meanings can be understood correctly and appropriately. In the Quran of Surah An-Naml verse 63 has mentioned about sea and winds which is the main topic discussed in this research.

## 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Based on previous studies, there are several authors who have produced writing about the sea and wind. First is thesis written by Erik Widi Riyanto "*Makna Kata al-Baḥrain dalam Al-Quran dari Sudut Ilmu Pengetahuan (studi kemukjizatan ilmiah Al-Quran)*". This research explains about the term '*baḥrain*'

mentioned in the Quran referring to *Tafsir Ilmiy* which is a knowledge related to *I'jaz Al-Quran* and the research conducted using *Tafsir Fi Zhilali Quran* and *Tafsir al-Misbâh*. The word 'bahrain' from scientific perspective has two meaning which are "two seas (no mixed)" and "fresh water (river) and salt water (sea)" (Erik, 2011).

"*Penafsiran Makna Bahrain dalam Al-Quran (pendekatan Tafsir Ilmiy)*" by Mamad Muhamad Fauzil Abad discussed about the phenomena of two oceans meet at Gibraltar strait which is between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic sea. The salinity rates of these two seawater are different which causes no mixing between its and this is certainly the power of Allah The Almighty (Mamad, 2017).

Next, "*Bencana Angin dan Banjir dalam Al-Quran*" by Nikmah Rasyid Ridha which is this thesis explained about two disasters namely wind and flood, that cause damage and loss. These disasters are divided according to damage and losses caused. Wind disasters are shown through six words with different characteristics of disaster while floods in the Quran are only divided into two. According to Nikmah (2013), through a comprehensive study, the causes of wind and floods can be identified as well as the solutions offered by the Quran.

Achmad Fachrur Rozi has written a thesis about "*Angin dalam Al-Quran (studi atas penafsiran Tantawi Jauhari dalam kitab Al-Jawahir Fi Tafsir Al-Quran Al-Karim)*" which is discussed about the wind as one of the four main element in human life. Sometimes Allah SWT sends a moving wind that carries rain because rain brings a good news and good things while sometimes Allah SWT sends the wind as torture and punishment to be a lesson to human (Achmad, 2016).

In addition, there is also a book discussed about scientific findings in Al-Quran including the sea and wind which is has written by Nadiah Thayyarah entitled "*Buku Pintar Sains dalam Al-Quran (mengerti mukjizat ilmiah firman Allah)*". In this book, Nadiah (2013) explained about the miracle of sea including the barrier between two seas, the burning sea (volcano), the darkness of deep sea and the treasures of the sea. While the topic of wind is related to the role of wind as producer of lightning, snow and rain as well as the affecting of waves formation. These topic are scientifically proven and certified by the Quran.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this research is qualitative study by using data collection method to get information, statements, comments, features or anything that can explain a phenomenon. Through this method, finding information is the most concentrated and accumulated to get more accurate and correct information. This method will be applied to know about Surah An-Naml that related with science. Data collection also refers to all primary data in the form of documents such as books, conference papers, theses, journals, website and dictionary. Since this research is in the form of Al- Quran verses, the main material, source and reference of this study are data, facts and information obtained directly from the Quran itself. This method is used to achieve all the objectives of the study outlined which is more specifically, the subjects are investigating the connection between Surah An-Naml verse 63 and scientific perspectives about the darkness of the sea and the role of the wind.

### 4 DISCUSSION AND RESULT

*"Is He who guides you in the darkness of land and sea and who sends the winds as harbingers of His mercy? What! Is there a god besides Allah? Exalted is Allah above [having] any partners they ascribe [to Him]" (Surah An-Naml: 63)*

The verse of Surah An-Naml above is found to have a relation with scientific studies specifically about the universe. Allah SWT said that He is the one that guides human in the darkness of land and sea as well as gives the wind as carrier of good news to human. Therefore, the discussion of this study divided into two which are the darkness of the sea and the role of the wind.

#### 4.1 The Darkness of the Sea

Scientists have discovered that the seas is covered by thick piles of clouds that block most of the sunlight. Seawater absorbs the spectrum of light colours slowly according to the depth of water. The deeper the sea, the more colour spectrum is absorbed by seawater then there was darkness formation in the sea (Nadiah, 2013). The general environment in deep seas is described as oceans. The darkness in deep seas and oceans can be identified about 200 meters and down. At this depth, it is possible to get light and below 1000 meters there is no light at all (Mission Islam [MI], n.d).

Besides, human can only dive more than 40 meters depth without the assistance of submarines or special

equipment and cannot withstand without equipment with a depth of 200 meters. Therefore, the condition of dark sea can only know by scientists through equipment such as submarines and oxygen tanks as well as people can explore about the deep sea conditions and conduct research and findings on it by utilizing this complete diving equipment (Elder & Pernetta, 1991).

MI (n.d) explained that measurements made with today's technology have revealed that between 3 and 30 percent of the sunlight is reflected at the surface of the sea. Then, almost all of the seven colours of the light spectrum are absorbed, one after another, in the first 200 meters, except for blue light and below a depth of 1,000 meters, there is no light at all. This scientific fact also was pointed out in the verse 40 of Surah An-Nur in the Quran:

*“Or like the manifold darkness in a deep sea, covered by billow upon billow, overcast by clouds, manifold [layers of] darkness, one on top of another: when he brings out his hand, he can hardly see it, and one whom Allah has not granted any light has no light.” (Surah An-Nur: 40)*

This verse mentions the darkness found in the deep sea, so if someone removes his hand in the darkness, he will not be able to see his own hands by darkness. It is certainly one of the miracles of the Qur'an that such information was given at a time where no equipment to enable man to dive into the depths of the oceans was available (MI, n.d).

Siti, Nor and Najwa (2013) stated that scientific research has shown that there is no light in the deep sea especially in the deepest depths, but there is only darkness. The reason for this is that sunlight cannot penetrate to the bottom of the ocean, especially at depths equal to 110034 meters deep. Extremely darkness can be found at a depth of 200 meters and down. Even at the depth of 1000 meters the presence of the light entity does not exist equally. Most sunlight from the sun has been absorbed by water above the 100 meter level. This part of the sea is known as “the luminous portion”. 1% of sunlight can be seen at 150 meters, and 0.01% at 200 meters.

## 4.2 The Role of the Wind

Wind is the atmospheric air in motion (Kalmikov & Dykes, n.d). The differences in the atmospheric pressure can caused wind. It is caused by air that move from high pressure place to low pressure place or from low temperature place to high temperature place (Desy, 2016). When a difference in atmospheric pressure exists, air transported from the higher to the lower pressure area, resulting in winds of various speeds. Wind is caused by air flowing from high pressure to low pressure and its direction is influenced by the earth rotation (Weather Questions [WQ], 2010). Generally, weather is fair and winds typically light in a high pressure area while in low pressure area, winds typically strong and weather is generally cloudy (Britt, 2005).

In Al-Quran, the word wind or in Arabic called ‘*rih*’ in singular form and ‘*riyah*’ in plural form had been mentioned around 29 times in 26 surah which are 21 from surah *Makiyyah* and 5 from surah *Madaniyyah*. The word ‘*rih*’ had been repeated in Al-Quran around 19 times while the word ‘*riyah*’ had been repeated around 10 times (Sahabuddin, 2007). According to Ibn Kathir in his interpretation, the words *rī* and *riyāh* is the wind that brings disaster and the wind that gives expediency.

Wind has a big role in the provision of clouds. It helps the initial process of cloud formation, accumulates it, raises it to the upper layers of the atmosphere, marries it with different particles and turns it into electric ions (Nadiah, 2013). The role of wind also mentioned in Surah Al-Hijr verse 22 and Surah Ar-Rum verse 48:

*“And We send the fertilizing winds and send down water from the sky providing it for you to drink and you are not maintainers of its resources.” (Surah Al-Hijr: 22)*

*“It is Allah who sends the winds. Then they raise a cloud, then He spreads it as He wishes in the sky, and forms it into fragments, whereat you see the rain issuing from its midst. Then, when He strikes with it whomever of His servants that He wishes, behold, they rejoice;” (Surah Ar-Rum: 48)*

In Surah Al-Hijr pointed out that the first stage in the formation of rain is wind. Until the beginning of the 20th century, the only relationship between the wind and the rain that was known, was that the wind drove the clouds. However, modern meteorological findings have demonstrated the fertilizing role of the wind in the formation of rain (MI, n.d).

According to Sainsisme (2012), scientists have different opinions about the wind in the life of the universe. The opinions as below:

1) J.Yannev Ewusie said that several roles and benefits of wind is in tropical ecology that influenced the structure and species of the tropical community itself. He also said that the wealth species in some habitat

part may be due to direction of wind and water flow.

2) Ir. Usman dan Ir. Warkoyo said that the wind is a relative mass motion of the surface earth in the horizontal direction of high pressure airspace to low air pressure areas.

3) Drs. Sumarito, Dipl. Ed and Dra. Yundaru Nurantini argue that wind is one of the intermediary factors in generative reproduction to the plant or can be referred as Anemogamy. Besides that, the wind also affects the process of transpiration in plants through the cuticle leaf, sub stomata and cell nucleus in the stem.

In addition, the benefits of wind can be taken as energy driving various human needs. Wind roles as a cloud driving force to reduce rain, driving force of sailing ships on the ocean so that the ship can drive calmly to destination and wind also as an important factor in pollination. Pollination with the wind is usually for open and closed seeds plants whose do not have flowers or petal like some types of grains, palm trees and so on (Chadziq, 1991).

## 5 CONCLUSION

Al-Quran was revealed since hundreds years ago to the Prophet Muhammad SAW is the word of Allah SWT and not a human creation as often accused by most of non-Muslim who doubtful about the contents of Al-Quran. Every verse and word that contained in the Quran is from Allah SWT as well as the scientific evidence in Al-Quran proves clearly that it is from Him. In fact, nobody can fabricate a book 1400 years ago like Al-Quran which contained detailed scientific facts, which the humans only can find after a few centuries. However, Al-Quran is not a book of science, but it is a book of instructions revealed by Allah SWT to His servants as a guide and source of knowledge. These instructions invite people to be aware of their purpose on this earth and live in harmony. With taking a little part of Allah's creation and studying it between the Quranic interpretations and scientific evidence has proven that Allah's knowledge is unlimited at all.

In Surah An-Naml verse 63, Allah SWT mentioned about the darkness of the sea then scientists recently have discovered that the seas is covered by thick piles of clouds that block most of the sunlight then forming the darkness. Seawater absorbs the spectrum of light colours slowly according to the depth of water. The deeper the sea, the more colour spectrum is absorbed by seawater then there was darkness formation in the sea. Allah SWT also mentioned about the role of wind that gives many benefits to human and living things in this world. Winds is created to bring down the rain as main source for living things which also can be very useful in generating electricity by using specific tools and machines. In addition, the winds can move the clouds from one place to another place besides help the plant in spreading the seed. Winds also can be used for ship to sail in the ocean and sea.

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