Tolerance and Harmony: Keys in Religious Moderation as a Harmonious Society

Toleransi dan Kerukunan: Kunci dalam Moderasi Beragama sebagai Masyarakat Harmonis

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Abstract

Human life today is colored by extraordinary diversity. Various nations, cultures, tribes and languages have grown and developed, creating a beautiful and unique community mosaic. However, along with the charm of religious diversity, there are challenges that must be faced by modern society. Differences in beliefs are often a potential source of conflict and tension that can threaten social cohesion and peace. The purpose of this research is to dig up more information about religious tolerance and harmony as well as to obtain scientific treasures regarding the importance of moderation as a balance point in religious life. This research is included in the type of qualitative research using literature study using Content Analysis data analysis techniques. In a moderate society, tolerance and harmony between religious adherents is a strong foundation for achieving peace and progress. We must jointly strive for religious moderation so that people can live in harmony, support one another, and respect the differences that exist. In this way, we will be able to create a better world, where justice, peace and compassion are the cornerstones of living together.

Keyword: Harmony; Tolerance ; Religious Moderation.

Abstrak

Kehidupan manusia saat ini diwarnai oleh keberagaman yang luar biasa. Berbagai bangsa, budaya, suku, dan bahasa telah tumbuh dan berkembang, menciptakan mozaik masyarakat yang indah dan unik. Namun, seiring dengan pesona keberagaman agama, terdapat tantangan yang mesti dihadapi masyarakat modern. Perbedaan keyakinan seringkali menjadi sumber potensial konflik dan ketegangan yang dapat mengancam keutuhan dan kedamaian sosial. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menggali informasi lebih lanjut mengenai toleransi dan kerukunan beragama serta memperoleh khazanah keilmuan mengenai pentingnya moderasi sebagai titik keseimbangan dalam kehidupan beragama. Penelitian ini termasuk kedalam jenis penelitian kualitatif dengan menggunakan studi pustaka dengan menggunakan teknik analisis data Content Analysis. Dalam masyarakat yang moderat, toleransi dan kerukunan antarumat beragama adalah pijakan kuat untuk mencapai perdamaian dan kemajuan. Kita harus bersama-sama mengupayakan moderasi beragama agar masyarakat bisa hidup dalam harmoni, saling mendukung, dan menghormati perbedaan yang ada. Dengan demikian, kita akan mampu menciptakan dunia yang lebih baik, di mana keadilan, kedamaian, dan kasih sayang adalah landasan dalam kehidupan bersama.

Kata Kunci: Kerukunan; Toleransi; Moderasi Beragama.

INTRODUCTION

Human life today is characterized by extraordinary diversity. Various nations, cultures, tribes and languages have grown and developed, creating a beautiful and unique mosaic of society. In the midst of this diversity, one aspect that emerges very strongly is religious diversity. Religious beliefs become a form of spiritual expression that distinguishes and connects humans with God or a higher power.

However, along with the charm of religious diversity, there are challenges that modern society must face. Differences in beliefs are often a potential source of conflict and tension that can threaten social integrity and peace. However, in the midst of this dynamic, there are two main things that are key pillars in creating a harmonious society, namely tolerance and religious harmony.

In this case, this research was carried out with the aim of exploring further information regarding religious tolerance and harmony as well as obtaining scientific knowledge regarding the importance of moderation as a balance point in religious life. In this way, tolerance and harmony are important foundations in achieving social harmony so that every element of society can play an active role in building an inclusive and prosperous society.

In essence, religious tolerance is not just an attitude of recognizing the existence of other religions, but a form of awareness and appreciation for the diversity of beliefs. The topics of tolerance and religious freedom are very interesting to discuss. However, in the current situation, Islam often faces unfavorable criticism from some people who do not like this religion. There are statements that Islam is considered a religion that is unfriendly to differences, discrimination and extremes. Some people argue that Islam does not support freedom of religion or freedom of opinion. They consider Islam to be full of harsh actions in the name of religion, which actually distances peace, love and unity (Bakar, 2015). Meanwhile, religious harmony emphasizes the importance of mutually respectful and supportive interactions between followers of different religions. Together, religious tolerance and harmony are the keys to moderation that strengthens the appeal of a multicultural society and makes differences an asset, not an obstacle.

In facing increasingly complex global and local challenges, making religious tolerance and harmony the main pillar is a prerequisite for creating a harmonious society that is inclusive and prosperous. By understanding the true meaning of religious moderation, we will be able to forge ties of brotherhood and unite diversity into a force that lights the way to a better future.

Therefore, through this article with the title "Tolerance and Harmony: The Key to Religious Moderation as a Harmonious Society" which contains the contribution of religious tolerance and harmony in creating a harmonious and peaceful society, as well as the active role of each individual in building a strong foundation for the future. brighter future.

WRITING METHOD

This research is included in the type of qualitative research using library research. Library study or literature study is the process of investigating and analyzing written works, books, articles, journals and other written sources that are relevant to a particular topic or research question. The aim is to understand and collect information that has been collected by previous authors in a context related to a particular subject.

In this case, the researcher examines more deeply about tolerance and harmony as the key to religious moderation as a harmonious society. The data analysis technique used in this research is Content Analysis by discussing the content or contents of a problem being discussed through certain steps.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

    A. The Nature of Religious Tolerance

Tolerance comes from the Latin word "Tolerare" which means patiently allowing something. Broadly speaking, tolerance is human behavior or attitudes that respect and respect other people's actions without deviating from the rules (Bakir, 2009). In Arabic, the equivalent word for tolerance is samanah or tasamuh, which means an attitude of being open-minded and open to facing differences with a noble personality (Enginer, 2004).

Based on the opinion of the figure Abed al-Jabri, tolerance means attitudes and behavior that accept other people's thoughts and behavior, whether we agree or differ with them. Meanwhile, in other literature, namely the opinion of Umar Hasyim, religious tolerance means giving freedom to other people to implement the rules of their beliefs and organize their lives according to their beliefs, as long as it does not violate order and peace in society (Masduqi, 2011).

Religious tolerance covers issues of belief related to belief or divinity in humans. Every person must be given the freedom to believe in and embrace the religion of his choice, and respect the implementation of the teachings of the religion he believes in. Overall, religious tolerance means being patient and refraining from disturbing or insulting the religion or belief system and worship of adherents of other religions (Wahdah, 2019).

In a social, cultural and religious context, tolerance means attitudes and actions that prohibit discrimination against groups that are different or unacceptable to the majority in a society. For example, religious tolerance is when the majority adherents in a society allow the existence of other religions (Digdoyo, 2017).

Tolerance in a religious and socio-cultural context means attitudes and actions that prohibit discrimination against groups that are different or are not acceptable to the majority in a society. For example, religious tolerance is when adherents of the majority religion in a society allow the existence of other minority religions. Tolerance means mutual respect and respect for people of other religions (Giddens, 1987).

Pancasila, as the basis of the Indonesian state, emphasizes the importance of being devoted to God according to one's religion and beliefs, and this encourages all religious communities to respect each other in order to create harmony in life. Tolerance is peaceful coexistence in carrying out aspects of life, and in religious teachings, every human being has a social responsibility to respect each other and maintain peace. Through the practice of tolerance, it is hoped that order, wisdom, calm and activeness will be realized in carrying out worship according to each religion and belief (Digdoyo, 2017).

Islamic teachings always teach its followers to maintain good relations with each other, including followers of other religions. Islam has universal teaching values

and is tolerant. God forbids forcing religion on other people, because it provides religious freedom for humans. This is a form of tolerance towards differences in beliefs. Tolerance in Islam eliminates disparities and allows for good relations and cooperation in society. Rasulullah SAW has set an example of tolerant attitude by establishing good relations with non-Muslim groups. Islamic governments also show high tolerance and protect minorities.

In Islam, tolerance or tasamuh is an attitude that shows mutual understanding and respect for fellow humans or other people. This tolerance is based on humility and understanding of differences in spiritual aspects, norms, even ideological and political aspects. Tolerance in Islam teaches freedom to adhere to a religion or understanding according to one's beliefs. The Qur'an discusses tolerance in Islam a lot, where tolerance is part of brotherhood which is important in this teaching. Allah SWT. emphasizes brotherhood in various aspects of life, including the same descent, nation, race, society and religion. As contained in the Qur'an surah Al-Hujurat verse 13 which reads:

$$\text{يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلنَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَٰكُم مِّن ذَكَرٍ وَأُنثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَٰكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَآئِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوٓاْ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِندَ ٱللَّهِ أَتْقَىٰكُمْ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ}$$
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13. O people, indeed We created you from a man and a woman and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know each other. Indeed, the noblest among you in the sight of Allah is the most pious among you. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Knowing.

From the verse above it can be concluded that Allah SWT commands His servants to be tolerant with others, especially regarding various kinds of differences such as ethnicity, skin color and customs as well as language and religion.

B. Concept of Religious Harmony

Harmony comes from the Arabic word "ruknun" which means "principle or basis" (Department of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia, 2003). Religious harmony means living in harmony both among fellow religious believers and within one's own group. Religious harmony occurs when harmonious, dynamic, peaceful and harmonious relationships are established between fellow religious communities in Indonesia (Yustiani, 2008). In the Islamic concept, harmony is referred to by the term "tasamuh" which means harmony in social life and society. Harmony is a form of accommodation that does not require interference from other parties, because both parties understand each other and hope for a good atmosphere in life together (Mawardi, 2008).

Tolerance, in Latin "tolerare", means restraint, being patient, respecting differences of opinion, and being open-minded towards other people's views, beliefs and religions. All of this is important in creating harmony and harmony in society (Ali, 2006). Religious harmony is divided into two types, namely harmony within the Muslim community itself and harmony between communities of different religions (Mawardi, 2015). Harmony within Muslims in Indonesia must be based on the spirit of Islamic brotherhood that lives in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

This is in accordance with Allah's teachings in the Qur'an, Surah Al-Hujurat verse 10, that the unity of Muslims is bound by the same beliefs, behavior and views based on the Qur'an and hadith.

C. Understanding Religious Moderation

Moderate Islam or Islam Wasathiyyah contains the meaning of the words "Islam" and "Wasathiyyah." Islam is a religion with many blessings and is embraced by many people in Indonesia and in the world. "Wasathiyyah" in Arabic means "moderation" or "balance" (Faiqah, 2018). This term is also used in the Islamic context to indicate a balanced and complete view in religion. Basically, moderate Islam is a middle way that includes several aspects, such as aqidah (belief), worship (worship), behavior, and the formation of sharia.The main principles are justice and balance (Asfahani, 2009).

In Quraish Shihab's view, there are two important pillars of moderation (wasathiyyah) in Islam (Zamimah, 2018):

1. Pillar of Justice: This refers to the use of equal measures in the treatment of all people. Fair means giving rights to their owners through the closest and most appropriate means. Fairness also reflects moderation, neither excessive nor diminishing.

2. Pillar of Balance: Balance occurs when various parts or aspects in a group move towards certain goals, by complying with the conditions and levels required by each part. Balance does not always mean equality in size or condition, but in accordance with the expected function of each part.

In moderate Islam, these values are applied in various aspects of life, including belief, worship, behavior and law. The aim is to create balance, justice and harmony in religion and social life (Syafruddin, 2009).

In Quraish Shihab's view, the principle of balance is very important in the wasathiyyah concept. Balance is the basis for creating justice. For example, Allah created everything according to its size, quantity, and the needs of living creatures. Allah also arranges the universe so that it runs in balance, so that the sky and celestial bodies do not collide.

Tolerance is also an important pillar in wasathiyyah. Tolerance is an acceptable limit in addition or subtraction. Tolerance means understanding and accepting differences and not ignoring religious principles. Wasathiyyah is an approach that separates two opposing things. This rejects radical thinking in religion and also refuses to ignore the teachings of the Koran as the basis of law. Wasathiyyah is more inclined towards tolerance and does not undermine understanding of Islam. Meanwhile, according to Yusuf Al-Qardhawi, wasathiyyah (moderate understanding) is a characteristic of Islam that is not shared by other ideologies. In other words, Islam teaches about balance, tolerance and moderate understanding (Syafruddin, 2009).

D. The Importance of Religious Moderation in Society

Religious moderation has an important role in society because it brings a number of significant benefits:

1) Harmony and Harmony

Religious moderation helps create a climate of harmony and harmony between

adherents of various religions. This reduces the potential for conflict and increases understanding and mutual respect between different religious groups.

2) Reducing Extremism

A moderate approach can prevent the emergence of extremism and radicalism in society. By emphasizing balanced understanding and tolerance, individuals tend to be more open to various views and avoid harmful actions.

3) Good Education and Understanding

Religious moderation encourages balanced and objective education about religion. This helps avoid the spread of false or extreme information that could trigger conflict and confusion among religious believers.

4) Development of existing communities

A moderate approach to religion promotes the development of a civilized society, where ethical, moral, and social values are emphasized. This contributes to positive social and cultural development.

5) Positive Contribution in Development

Individuals who embrace religious moderation are more likely to engage in social, economic, and political activities that advance society. They contribute to development in a more productive and harmonious manner.

6) Respect for Religious Freedom

The moderate approach supports the right of every individual to have their own beliefs and religion without discrimination or pressure from other parties. It fosters a culture of respect for religious freedom.

7) Negative Stigma Reduction

Religious moderation helps reduce stigma and negative stereotypes against certain religious groups. This opens the door for dialogue and positive interaction between various religious groups.

By prioritizing moderation in religion, society can create a peaceful, harmonious and progressive environment, where individuals from various religious backgrounds can live together with mutual respect and contribute to building a better future.

E. Tolerance and Harmony as Keys in Religious Moderation as a Harmonious Society

Tolerance and harmony have a central role in realizing religious moderation as the foundation of a harmonious society. Both are the main keys that open the door to the establishment of balanced and peaceful relations between various religious beliefs and traditions. Tolerance, in this context, refers to an attitude of openness and respect for differences in religious beliefs. This means not only recognizing an individual's right to have a religion according to their beliefs, but also accepting and respecting this diversity. Tolerance creates space for dialogue and understanding between religious groups, avoiding conflicts that could arise due to misunderstanding.

On the other hand, tolerance is the result of a moderate approach to religion. It involves living together in harmony regardless of differences in religion or belief. Harmony allows people to share positive values, understand each other, and work

together to overcome the problems they face. When tolerance and harmony are adopted in daily practice, a harmonious society can be formed. This creates an environment where every individual feels respected and accepted, ultimately enhancing well-being and socio-economic development. Moderation in religion, driven by tolerance and harmony, provides a strong foundation for building a society of peaceful coexistence and mutual support.

F. Keys to Religious Moderation
  1) Education and Awareness
     Education is the foundation for religious tolerance and harmony. A curriculum that includes an understanding of different religions, the history of religious diversity, and respect for religious differences can help overcome stereotypes and prejudice between religious believers.
  2) Interfaith Dialogue
     Holding interfaith dialogue is an important means of strengthening understanding between different faiths. Through honest and open dialogue, people can get to know each other, respect each other, and seek similarities, thereby creating bonds of brotherhood and solidarity.
  3) Promotion of Moderate Religious Leadership
     Moderate religious figures play an important role in creating a harmonious society. They can be role models in implementing the values of tolerance and harmony in their daily life practices and carrying the message of peace to their people.
  4) Strengthening Laws and Tolerance Policies
     The government must ensure that there is legal protection that ensures religious freedom and respects human rights for all its citizens without exception. In addition, policies that promote religious harmony must also be encouraged and implemented.
  5) Active Community Participation
     The community must actively participate in efforts to promote religious tolerance and harmony. Engagement in social activities and interfaith dialogue, as well as supporting initiatives that strengthen harmony, are examples of concrete steps that can be taken.

CONCLUSION

Implementing religious moderation means taking a middle stance and rejecting extremism in all its forms. This does not mean we have to sacrifice our religious identity, but rather emphasizes the uniqueness and richness that each faith has. Religious moderation builds bridges and opens up space for mutual understanding, mutual respect, and collaboration to achieve mutual prosperity.

In a moderate society, tolerance and harmony between religious communities is a strong foundation for achieving peace and progress. We must work together to achieve religious moderation so that society can live in harmony, support each other, and respect existing differences. In this way, we will be able to create a better world, where justice, peace and compassion are the foundations of life together.

In an increasingly connected and complex world, it is important for society to build a solid foundation for harmony and harmony. This article has explained how important tolerance and harmony are in the context of religious moderation as the main foundation for a harmonious society. Tolerance is an important foundation that allows each individual to recognize and respect differences in religious beliefs. This is not only about respecting everyone's right to practice religion according to their beliefs, but also opening the way for dialogue and understanding. Tolerance encourages us to focus on the similarities and shared values that bind us as human beings, despite our diverse religious backgrounds.

Harmony, as a result of a moderate religious approach, allows people to live together in harmony. This is a concrete manifestation of the values of moderation, where differences in beliefs are no longer an obstacle to uniting in cooperation. Harmony encourages us to look beyond differences and appreciate diverse cultural and spiritual riches. In a harmonious society, tolerance and harmony work together to create an environment that respects the rights of each individual and values diversity. Religious moderation is a strong pillar, leading to a collective awareness that harmony is the key to maintaining peace and balance. A harmonious society, which bases its existence on tolerance and harmony, will be able to resolve conflict wisely, build shared prosperity, and create a better future for all.

Therefore, as citizens, let us together realize the values of tolerance and harmony in our daily practices. By using religious moderation as a guide, we can create a more tolerant, more harmonious and more peaceful world for all humans, regardless of differences in religious beliefs.

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