

Bulan Membaca Julai 2006

bersama Perpustakaan USM



BICARA KARYAWAN



- (1) **En. Ramli Abdul Samad**
(Pustakawan Kanan, PHS)
Tarikh: 12 Julai 2006
Tajuk Buku: "Hikayat Neogenesis:
Menjelajah Cakerawala Melalui Kosmologi
Islam"
- (2) **En. Robert Joseph Raymer**
(Guru, Pusat Bahasa dan Terjemahan)
Tarikh: 13 Julai 2006
Tajuk Buku: "Lovers And Strangers Revisited"
- (3) **Prof. Md. Salleh Yaapar**
(Pengarah, Penerbit USM)
Tarikh: 18 Julai 2006
Tajuk Buku: "Mysticism And Poetry: A Hermeneutical
Reading Of The Poems Of Amir Hamzah"
- (4) **Prof. Mashhor Mansor**
(Dekan, PP Sains Kajihayat)
Tarikh: 21 Julai 2006
Tajuk Buku: "Merintis Jalan Ke Antartika"
- (5) **Dr. Mohd. Asri Zainul Abidin**
(Pensyarah, PP Ilmu Kemanusiaan)
Tarikh: 26 Julai 2006
Tajuk Buku: "Pertelingkahan Para Sahabat
Nabi S.A.W. Antara Ketulenan Fakta dan
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Masa: 10.00 pg.—12.00 tgh. hari
Tempat: Bilik Audio, Bhgn. Media, Ting. 2,
Perpustakaan Hamzah Sendut 1

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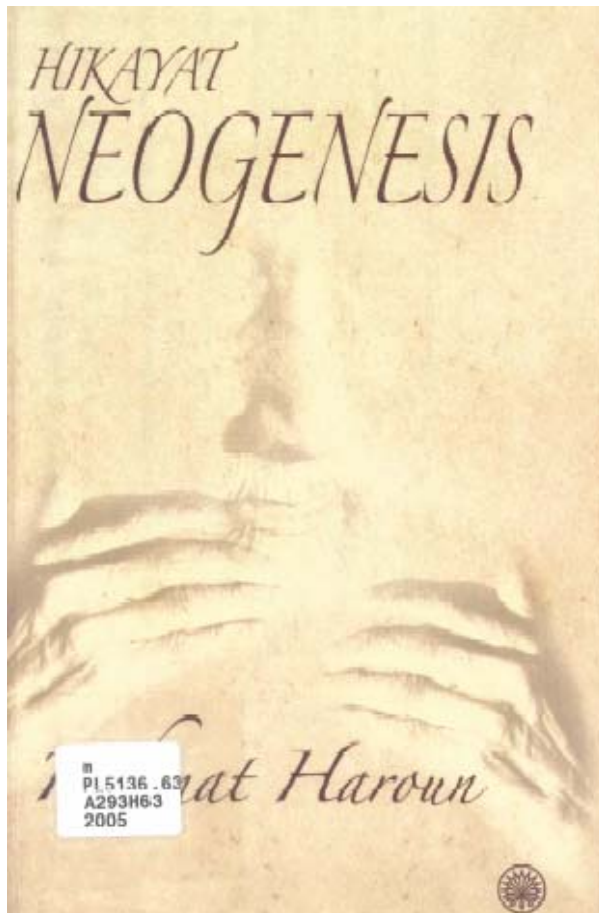


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RAHMAT HAROUN adalah doktor perubatan yang sebelum ini menghasilkan novel-novel *Dr. Ar.Ti.* (DBP, 1989), *Terang Bulan* (DBP, 1990), *Manuklon* (DBP, 1990) dan *Sentuhan Oedipus* ("K" Publishings, 1991).

Dilahirkan di Pulau Pinang, pengarang ini mendapat pendidikan rendah di SRK Perai dan menengah di SMK Dato' Onn, Seberang Perai, Pulau Pinang; dan prauniversiti di SM Sultan Abdul Halim, Jitra, Kedah. Beliau memperoleh ijazah Sarjana Kedokteran (Drs.) di Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, Indonesia (1977) dan M.D. di universiti yang sama (1979). Setamat pengajian beliau bertugas sebagai doktor di beberapa buah hospital selama beberapa tahun dan juga pernah menjadi pensyarah di Jabatan Anatomi, Fakulti Perubatan, UKM, Kuala Lumpur. Sejak tahun 1984 menjadi pengamal perubatan swasta dengan kliniknya sendiri di Petaling Jaya dan kini di Langkawi.

Di samping mengarang novel, beliau juga menulis cerpen, pulsi, esei dan buku perubatan. Esei-esainya pernah terbit di akhbar *Kompas*, *Utusan Malaysia* dan *The New Straits Times*. Buku-buku perubatannya ialah *Asma* (PFB, 1992), *Tekanan Darah Tinggi* (PFB, 1992) dan *Sifilis dan Penyakit Kelamin Lainnya* (PFB, 1992).

HIKAYAT NEOGENESIS

Novel ini mengadunkan unsur-unsur sains dan epistemologi Islam tentang kewujudan alam dan manusia pertama. Tanpa mengabaikan hakikat ilmu Islam, pengarang cuba membuka minda pembaca (melalui fakta-fakta saintifik) tentang kemungkinan kewujudan manusia di muka bumi ini. Hujahan-hujahan saintifik yang diadun secara kreatif bolehlah dianggap sebagai usaha pengarang yang berani semata-mata demi wacana intelektual. Bagaimanapun, hujahan-hujahan saintifik itu seakan-akan mencabar kefahaman biasa orang Islam; dan perkara inilah yang ingin dibongkar oleh pengarang kerana percaya bahawa umat Islam harus terus meneroka misteri kejadian alam dan manusia berdasarkan ilmu, dan ilmu itu maha luas serta dalam.

Dato' Dr. Anwar Ridhwan

HIKAYAT NEOGENESIS

“Kehadiran Rahmat Haroun dalam jagat penulisan novel Melayu pada akhir dekad 1980-an mempunyai kepentingan yang tersendiri, malah memberikan warna dan variasi daripada sisi perkembangan pernovelan tanah air.

Kepentingan itu terserlah kerana Rahmat Haroun merupakan doktor perubatan tanah air yang pertama menghasilkan novel sejak novel pertama *Hikayat Faridah Hanum* karya Syed Sheikh al-Hadi diterbitkan pada tahun 1925 ... Rahmat Haroun memberikan sesuatu yang baru kepada pembaca, sekali gus pada sejarah pernovelan, apabila beliau mengangkat jagat perubatan sebagai bahan dan subjek ceritanya....”

Dr. Othman Puteh

Dewan Sastera, Mei 2003

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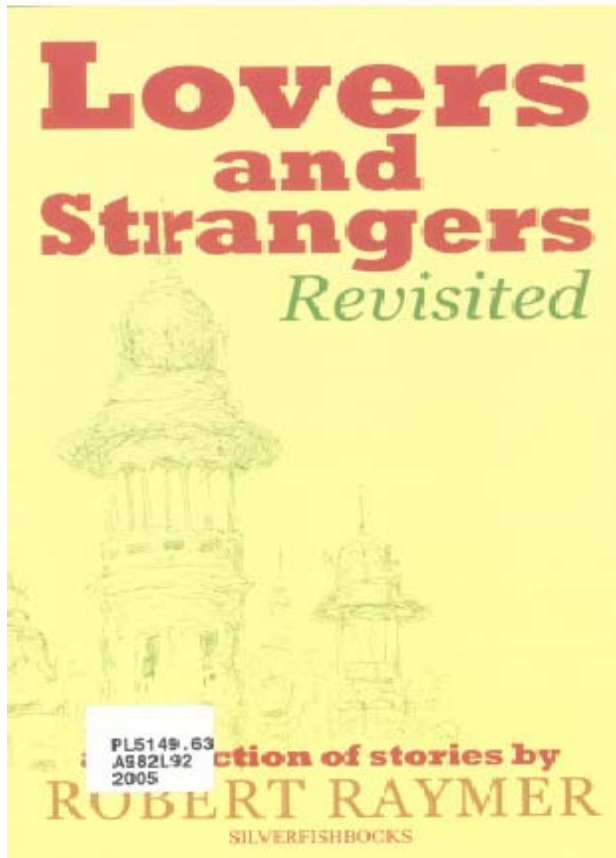
BICARA KARYAWAN

En. Robert Joseph Raymer

(Guru, Pusat Bahasa dan Terjemahan)

Tarikh: 13 Julai 2006

Tajuk Buku: **"Lovers And Strangers
Revisited"**



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A collection of short stories set in Malaysia and Singapore, *Lovers and Strangers - Revisited* runs the gamut of human relationships from matters of faith in a kampong, to matters of integrity in a bar, to matters of the heart in a colonial hotel.

From the reviews of the original *Lovers and Strangers*

"Malaysia comes alive with the firecrackers of Chinese New Year, the tears of a Malay woman in a taxi, the chapatis and tea served in a cramped house, and a nervous *mat salleh* meeting his new Malay in-laws in a kampong."

SUCCESS

"Marriage and infidelity, betrayal and other permutations of the mating game permeate this collection ... His sense of place is tangible."

HER WORLD

"What has been packed into [this collection] is pure pleasure."

THE STAR



Robert Raymer has lived in Malaysia since 1985. He was the editor of *Silverfish New Writing 4* and teaches Creative Writing at Universiti Sains Malaysia. His short stories and articles have appeared in such publications as the *Literary Review*, *London Magazine*, *Frank*, *Going Places*, *Silver Kris*, *Far East Traveller* and *Reader's Digest*.

SILVERFISHBOOKS
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A collection of short stories on Malaysian life by
American Robert Raymer offers an entertaining
insight into our culture, writes HIMANSHU BHATT

SQUEEZED into the back seat of a cheap Penang taxi on a rain-soaked morning, an American painter finds himself sandwiched between two strangers — one in a sari, the other in a *baju kurung*.

In the front, the Malay driver and his Sikh passenger gossip away, as a medley of pop music plays against the torrential downpour.

The American then notices the Malay woman beside him weeping while holding a letter. He is overcome with sympathy.

"If there's ever a proper time to hold a stranger's hand," thinks the character in the short story titled *On Fridays*, "now is it."

"The more I look at this crying woman, the more I have the urge to reach out and touch her hand, to let her know that I sympathise with her plight, whatever it is."

But the American is reminded of local sensitivity. He pulls himself back, and just sits tight.

This account of a crammed ride with strangers in a taxi may well stand as a metaphor of Robert Raymer's own experience of living among Malaysians for some 20 years.

As a Westerner who has made this country his home for so long, Raymer imbues each of the characters in his stories with a realistic, genuinely believable voice even as he tempers it with the valuable perspective of an observer.

"When I first moved to Malaysia 20 years ago," remembers the Pennsylvania-born writer, "I was fortunate to have lived in a medium-income terrace house where I had a Malay family on my right, a Chinese family on my left, a Tamil family directly across from me, a Punjabi family three houses away in one direction, and three houses in the other a Chinese woman married to an Indian man who were both Christians."

With his keen observations and personal interactions, Raymer went on to write a collection of short stories featuring myriad Malaysian characters in compelling situations.

First produced in 1993, *Lovers And Strangers* has now been republished by Silverfishbooks with the suffix *Revisited* added to its title.

Raymer's stories are full of entertaining and, often quite recognisable, personalities.

There is the wannabe barrister swaggering in a Leth Street pub, the small girl in a sarong meeting a dead cockroach, the legal firm secretary coping with her father's

death and nosy neighbours gossiping over a businessman's suicide.

Raymer, who recently edited *Silverfish New Writing 4*, insists his stories are mainstream and not tied to any specific genres.

"They're about everyday people that you might see at a *pasar malam* or at the post office or in your own neighbourhood."

Inevitably, many things have altered since he first wrote the stories. For example, the places where some of the stories were set have changed.

Raymer stresses that his original goal in penning the stories was to depict Malaysia not from the viewpoint of an outsider, an expatriate generalising from a distance, but as a connected insider.

"Even when I used the viewpoint of a Western character, as I did in *On Fridays* and *The Future Barrister*, I tried to use it almost passively, to serve the story, as opposed to having them be centres of attention."

Raymer, who currently teaches creative writing at Universiti Sains Malaysia, has written four novels — and another four screenplays. One of his stories, *Neighbours*, has also been adapted into a play.

Most of the short stories have already been published in nine countries. Three have been translated into Japanese.

In his life, Raymer has backpacked solo to 34 countries and danced the tango in Oscar-winning French film *Indochine* while it was shot in Penang.

But his short stories on the Malaysian experience hold a very cherished, personal space in his heart. As he was going through the stories for republishing, he found himself undergoing deep re-exploration of himself and his characters.

"It was an opportunity for me to revisit my past, not just as a writer, but who I was, where I lived, and what I had experienced and learned from living in Malaysia.

"The stories seem to have taken a life of their own," he adds. "In some ways it feels like the characters I had created 20 years ago don't want to be forgotten; they insist that their stories be told."

Lovers and Strangers Revisited will be launched at USM ABN-AMRO Arts and Cultural Centre, 9 Beach Street, Penang, on April 22 at 2pm. The event will include readings of excerpts from four stories and of Raymer's play, *One Drink Too Many*, by Penang Players. For details call 04-659 1485 or email penangplayers@yahoo.co.uk.

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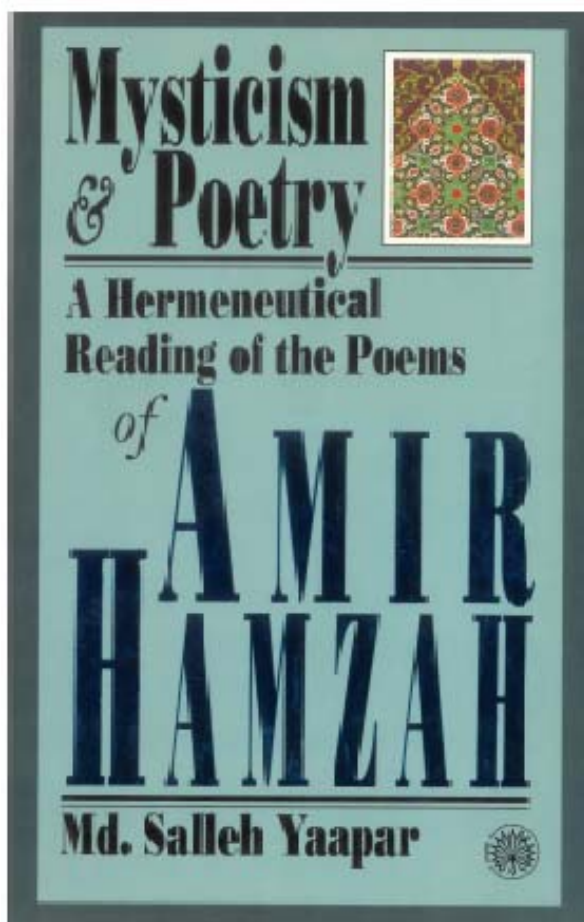


BICARA KARYAWAN

Prof. Md. Salleh Yaapar
(Pengarah, Penerbit USM)

Tarikh: 18 Julai 2006

Tajuk Buku: **"Mysticism And Poetry:
A Hermeneutical Reading Of The
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Masa: 10.00 pg.—12.00 tgh. hari

Tempat: Bilik Audio, Bhgn. Media, Ting. 2,
Perpustakaan Hamzah Sendut 1

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The Book

This book is a critical interpretation and appraisal of the poems of the celebrated Indonesian poet Amir Hamzah as expressed in *Buah Rindu* (Fruits of Longing, 1928-1935) and *Nyanyi Sunyi* (Songs of Solitude, 1937). Its primary aim is to understand fully the literary and religious characteristics of the texts and to evaluate their achievements, thus determining the real stature of the poet.

Using the hermeneutical approach, the study is carried out in a comprehensive and integral manner, i.e., by interpreting the poems in relation to the poet's biographical, literary and cultural background, as well as to the Oriental poems (the *Bhagavad-Gita*, the *Rubā'iyāt* of 'Umar *Khayyām*, the "Song of Songs" etc.) which Amir Hamzah had beautifully rendered into the Indonesian language.

The study reveals that the poems in *Nyanyi Sunyi* are clearly mystical in nature and are of an ethereal quality. They are informed by various aspects and levels of mystical experiences and insights. At the same time they bear the influences of the Qur'an as well as the writings of celebrated Sufi poets such as Ibn al-Fārid, Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī and Hamzah al-Fanṣūrī. In fact, some of the poems in *Buah Rindu* are also high in quality and deal with mystical love. These poems seem to prefigure those in *Nyanyi Sunyi*.

As for the Oriental poems which Amir Hamzah had translated, they are basically similar to his poems in *Nyanyi Sunyi*, and they very much reflect his own mystical quest.

The book affirms the eminent standing of Amir Hamzah as a poet and of his poetry which occupies a signal position in modern Indonesian as well as Malaysian literature.

The Author

Dr. Md. Salleh Yaapar is an associate professor at Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, where he teaches Comparative Literature. He has published essays on literature and religion/philosophy in leading journals including the *Muslim World*, *Muslim Education Quarterly* and the *Ulumul Qur'an*. His other contributions include chapters in several books on literature and religion/philosophy published in Malaysia and Singapore.

Md. Salleh obtained his B.A. (Hons) in Malay Studies from Universiti Malaya, M.A. in Comparative Literature from the University of the Philippines and M.A. as well as Ph.D in Comparative Religion from Temple University, Philadelphia, U.S.A.

The author is currently Dean of the School of Humanities, Universiti Sains Malaysia, as well as Secretary-General of the Secretariat For Islamic Philosophy and Science at the same university.

Book designed by:
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The Author



MD. SALLEH YAAPAR

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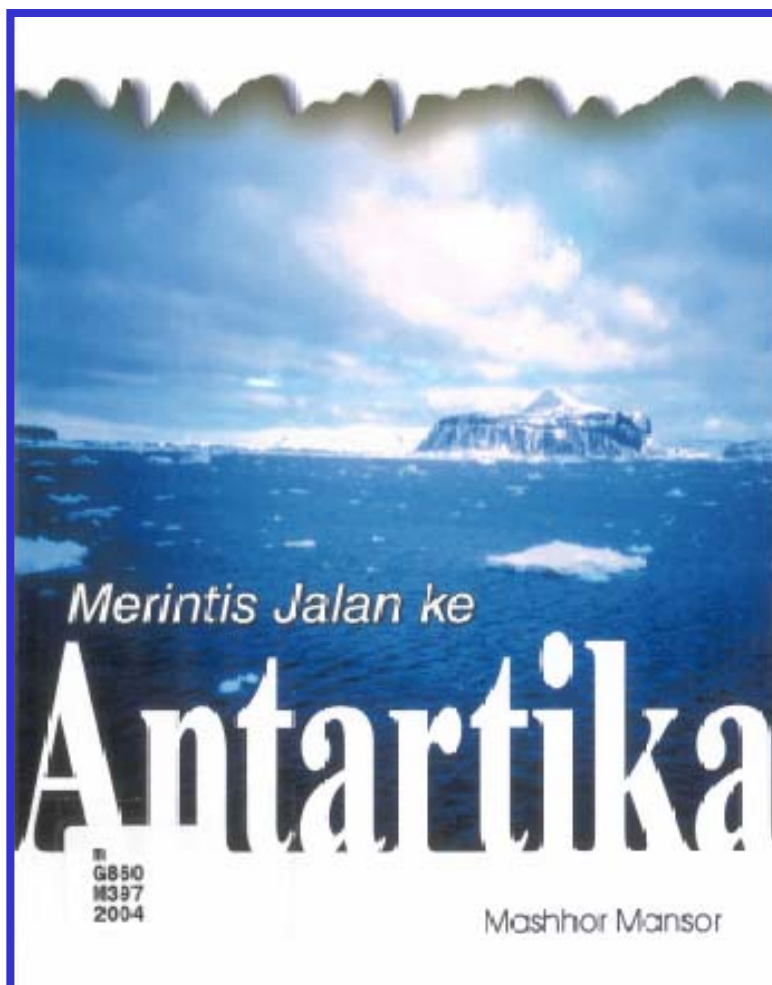
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MERINTIS JALAN KE ANTARTIKA

ANTARTIKA – benua yang terpencil, paling tandus, paling sejuk dan tidak berpenghuni. Ia merupakan kunci kepada kefahaman kita tentang bagaimana dunia ini berfungsi. Bagi pengembara terdahulu, Antartika umpama medan perjuangan hidup. Bagi para saintis, ia kekal sebagai tempat mencabar minda dan intelektual, manakala bagi pelancong, Antartika merupakan sebuah benua yang menyimpan seribu satu rahsia keindahan alam.

Pengalaman berpijak di bumi Antartika merupakan sesuatu yang indah, umpama mimpi jadi nyata. Tidak pernah terlintas di fikiran bahawa suatu hari nanti, segala mimpi akan menjadi realiti. Kesempatan yang diperolehi ini diguna sebaik mungkin dengan menjalankan beberapa kajian mudah dan pemerhatian di samping berlincang dengan pihak-pihak tertentu untuk mengadakan projek penyelidikan di Antartika dalam bidang Biologi.

Sehubungan itu, buku ini ditulis berdasarkan pengalaman yang dilalui penulis sepanjang berada di Antartika. Buku ini memuatkan 14 bab yang menceritakan pelbagai peristiwa menarik ketika di Antartika termasuk pertemuan dengan saintis-saintis ternama dari Jerman, Australia, New Zealand dan Argentina; pengalaman di stesen Esperanza; peluang menaiki kapal *Almirante Irizar*; tinjauan di gunung berapi Deception Island dan sebagainya. Dengan bahasa yang mudah dan terma saintifik yang minor, buku ini cuba mengajak pembaca untuk bersama-sama menghayati dan menghargai keindahan Antartika.



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BICARA KARYAWAN

Dr. Mohd. Asri Zainul Abidin

(Pensyarah, PP Ilmu Kemanusiaan)

Tarikh: 26 Julai 2006

Tajuk Buku: **"Pertelingkahan Para Sahabat Nabi S.A.W. Antara Ketulenan Fakta dan Pembohongan Sejarah"**



Masa: 10.00 pg.—12.00 tgh. hari

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Perpustakaan Hamzah Sendut 1

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PERTELINGKAHAN PARA SAHABAT NABI S.A.W.: Antara Ketulenan Fakta Dengan Pembohongan Sejarah

Buku ini dihasilkan dengan hasrat untuk mempertahankan ajaran Allah dan Rasul-Nya di samping memelihara lidah Mukmin daripada mengulas perselisihan antara para sahabat Nabi s.a.w. tanpa berpijak di atas akidah dan fakta yang sebenar. Diharapkan buku ini dapat mengeluarkan mereka daripada kancah kekeliruan tentang pertelingkahan sesama sahabat Nabi s.a.w. Mudah-mudahan ia juga dapat menyelamatkan mereka yang tersesat jalan sehingga menghina sebahagian para sahabat seperti Sayyidina 'Uthman ibn 'Affan, Umm al-Mukminin 'Aisyah, Talhah, al-Zubayr, Mu'awiyah dan lain-lain yang terlibat dalam Isu Perang Jamal dan Siffin. Bacaan sejarah tanpa bimbingan disiplin ilmu telah mengheret sebahagian pembaca bersangka buruk terhadap generasi yang agung itu, sedangkan para ulama Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jama'ah telah mempertahankan keteguhan peribadi para sahabat dan menjawab segala tohmahan terhadap mereka. Di sini penulis telah mengulas tentang kedudukan para sahabat berdasarkan disiplin al-Quran, al-Sunnah dan analisis ilmiah terhadap riwayat sejarah serta merumuskan keputusan yang mudah-mudahan melapangkan dada para pembaca, Insha-Allah.

MOHD ASRI ZAINUL ABIDIN, Ph. D., Pensyarah di Bahagian Pengajian Islam, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Pulau Pinang. Mendapat Ijazah pertama dalam Pengajian Bahasa Arab/Syari'ah di Universiti of Jordan, Amman. Beliau melanjutkan pelajaran di peringkat Sarjana dalam Pengajian Islam di Universiti Sains Malaysia dan Ijazah Kedoktoran dalam Ilmu Hadith di Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia.



PUSTAKA YAMIEN SDN. BHD.

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