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## THE VALUES OF ISLAMIC EDUCATION IN THE *LION OF THE DESERT* FILM

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### Keywords

Lion of the Desert,  
Islamic  
Education,  
Nationalism

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### Abstract

This article discusses the content of Islamic educational values contained in the *Lion of the Desert* film. As an Islamic-style film, apart from having a good aesthetic value, the film *Lion of the Desert* also seeks to present and instill an Islamic character to its audience. This article uses a qualitative-descriptive method to provide an overview of the segments in the film that contain Islamic educational values. The results of the study show that some of the values of Islamic education in the film are: obedience to worship, social care attitude, building the spirit of nationalism and patriotism, defending the truth, being optimistic and not easily discouraged, promoting noble character, and not betraying.

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### Kata Kunci

*Lion of the  
Desert*,  
Pendidikan  
Islam,  
Nasionalisme

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### Abstrak

Artikel ini membahas tentang kandungan nilai-nilai pendidikan Islam yang terdapat dalam film *Lion of the Desert*. Sebagai film yang bercorak islami, selain memiliki nilai estetika yang baik, film *Lion of the Desert* juga berupaya menampilkan sekaligus menanamkan karakter keislaman kepada penontonnya. Artikel ini menggunakan metode kualitatif-deskriptif untuk memberikan gambaran umum tentang segmen-segmen dalam film yang memuat nilai-nilai pendidikan Islam. Hasil dari penelitian menunjukkan bahwa beberapa nilai-nilai pendidikan Islam dalam film tersebut ialah: ketaatan beribadah, sikap peduli sosial, membangun semangat nasionalisme dan patriotisme, membela kebenaran, sikap optimis dan tidak mudah putus asa, mengedepankan akhlak mulia, serta tidak berkhianat.



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## INTRODUCTION

Along with the development of globalization, the emergence of works of art also makes an important contribution to education, especially films with religious themes in which it is able to provide education for the audience. The presence of the film in the middle of Technological developments are a big challenge, where films must be able to provide inspiration for peoplereal life. Films must provide a straight path for humans in the flow of globalization in accordance with religious values and teachings.

Apart from being an entertainment medium, films are also a medium in conveying moral messages to the audience. Film has become a very influential medium,

more than any other media, because audio and visual work well together in making the audience less bored and easier to remember. Through the messages contained in it, the film is able to give influence and even is able to shape the character of each audience. Therefore, according to Alex Sobur, films have the potential to influence their audiences (Sobur, 2004: 17).

In conveying the message to the audience, the director uses imagination to present a message through the film with elements involving exposition (either directly or indirectly). Not a few films that raise real stories or things that really happened in society such as heroism, war against invaders, and so on. There are a lot of ideological content in it, including educational values that can be taken from the spectacle.

One of the films that is loaded with the meaning of heroism, struggle, defending the country and society, and loaded with moral values and Islamic education is the film entitled *Lion of the Desert*. The film, which was released in 1981 and directed by Moustapha Akkad, tells the story of the struggle of Omar Mukhtar, a Libyan fighter, against the Italian occupation. The character of Omar Mukhtar, played by Anthony Quinn, was quite successful in playing this role. This film is colossal, so the fighting actions are stunning.

This paper will examine more deeply about the values of Islamic education that can be taken from the film *Lion of the Desert*. In addition, what is meant by Islamic educational values are values that can lead a person to become a religious person, have personality, have intelligence, have noble character, and have skills that are all based on Islamic law (Ramayulis, 2008: 13). Among these values are obedience in worship, social care, defending human rights, helping each other, working hard, loving the nation and the homeland.

## **METHODS**

This study uses a qualitative-descriptive approach. Researchers are trying to examine the values of Islamic education contained in the film *Lion of the Desert* by using Youtube shows ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), December 1, 2021). Furthermore, the researcher tries to explain with a description of the plot of the film the Islamic values formed from the role in the film.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Movie identity

Title	: Lion on the Desert
Director	: Mustapha Akkad
Scriptwriter	: HAL Craig
Cast	: Anthony Quinn as Omar Mukhtar Oliver Reed as Rodolfo Graziani Irene Papas as Mabrouka Rod Steiger as Benito Mussolini John Gielgud as Sharif, and others.
Duration	: 206 minutes
Release date	: April 17, 1981

### B. Movie storyline

Film *Lion on the Desert* tells the struggle of Omar Mukhtar and the Libyan people against the Italian invaders. Omar Mukhtar, a figure who has a fighting spirit and high social concern, is intelligent and highly dedicated to his religion. Born in 1861 in a small town in Libya named Zawia Janzour. Omar began his life as a Sufi and entered the tarekat called Sanusiyah until the end of his life.

Even as a member of the congregation, Omar really cares about his social environment, including his concern for the nation and state. In the teachings of the Order of Omar taught about fighting injustice.

The beginning of the struggle of the Libyan people in 1911, when Italian warships were anchored on the coast of Tripoli, Libya. They made a request to the Ottoman Caliphate to cede Tripoli to Italy. Otherwise, the city will be destroyed.

Together with the Libyan people, the Turkish caliphate categorically refused that request. The Italian troops considered this an insult. As a result, Italian troops bombed the city of Tripoli three days and three nights. This incident became a series of struggles of the Libyan mujahideen, together with the Turkish army, against the Italian troops.

In 1912, the Sultan of Turkey signed a peace treaty which was actually a symbol of Turkey's surrender to Italy. The agreement was held in the city of Lausanne, Switzerland. That was the beginning of the Italian colonial rule in Libya. However, this

agreement was rejected by the Libyan people. They continue to fight jihad. In some areas, they are still assisted by Turkish soldiers who disobey orders from the Turkish general at the center of the caliphate, Istanbul.

Omar Mukhtar who cares about the suffering of the Libyan people made him have to leave all recitations, for the sake of the needs of the people. He voiced against the oppression carried out by Italy. Omar, who is an expert in guerrilla warfare in the desert, positions himself as a war commander. He used his knowledge of the geographical map of Libya, to fight.

He really took advantage of that knowledge as a point of victory. Because he realized, he was moving within the scope of the laws of nature that would help him. Omar Mukhtar had around 6,000 troops. He also formed a small elite army that had high mobility and war skills.

In 1921 Omar Mukhtar was arrested, because of the betrayal of one of his troops. But thanks to his diplomatic skills, Omar was quickly freed by the enemy army. In the same year, Libya was ruled by the cruel Governor-General Guiseppe Volvi. 15,000 Italian troops were deployed in the city of Libya to kill the residents. The head of this army operation is Rudolfo Graziani (Oliver Reed). Graziani's atrocities did not exclude any of Omar's supporters from having all of them slaughtered. This prompted Omar and his troops to take up arms again. Victory was obtained by Omar and the Libyan people.

Italy was messy. They took a stand, arresting ordinary Libyan people. Therefore, the Libyan fighters had to undergo a very long war. The war that spanned the years 1923-1931 (8 years), caused Italy to suffer enormous losses. Italy lost wars everywhere. After receiving a report from Libya, Benito Mussolini intervened. He sent 400,000 troops to Libya. The war became very unbalanced. Omar Mukhtar's army was only 10,000 men, it resulted in the defeat of the Libyan people.

In 1931, Omar Mukhtar was arrested. A crushing defeat to the Libyan people. He was tried in a court where there was no justice in it. Finally, 16 September 1931 Omar Mukhtar was executed by hanging on the 'death column'. Hundreds of thousands of Libyan people screamed, unable to hold back their tears. Sad that the hero is gone. Omar deserves to be mourned and made an icon of the struggle for the people's defenders, defenders of freedom, defenders of religion, and defenders of the truth.

### **C. Islamic Education Values Based On Film**

After watching the film *Lion of the Desert*, there are several values of Islamic education that can be taken from the film, including:

1. Obedience to worship

Omar is a very religious figure, he is a devoted person, and as a teacher of the tarekat. While in prison, Omar continued to worship according to Islamic law. Even though the Italian soldiers tortured and made things difficult for Omar, he remained steadfast in his worship under any circumstances. Worship cannot be separated from the Muslim person, because worship is a means of approaching a servant's self to Allah.

The essence of worship is self-servitude to God. Do all God's commands and stay away from all prohibitions by hoping for God's pleasure. Therefore, an expert in worship will be planted with love for Allah and the Messenger of Allah, he will always put the commands of Allah and the Messenger before anything else. Likewise, the spirit of jihad will emerge, in the sense of trying hard to achieve everything that is loved by Allah and the Messenger of Allah (Abidin, 2020: 13). including defending humanity and against injustice and colonialism.

2. Social care

Omar's defense of the Libyan people is a form of high social concern. This film teaches us about the struggle to defend human rights. The oppression of humanity is an extraordinary crime that must be resisted, and Islam strictly forbids all forms of oppression. Although Omar is a tarekat teacher, he never loses his social side. When the Libyan people were occupied by Italian troops, Omar was at the forefront to defend the Libyan people as well as to fight against the oppression of the invaders.

According to Mustofa Bisri, a Muslim should have *muttaqi* piety, namely piety that includes ritual and social at the same time (Bisri, 2016: 37). Ritual piety, if done properly, will bring out a sense of humanity and high social concern. Because behind all the rites there is a meaning that every Muslim needs to contemplate, who is able to make him a perfect human being. Social care must be taught from an early age, because in essence humans are social beings

who need each other. Therefore, we should instill a social care attitude to the younger generation to always help others in need based on awareness (Tabi'in, 2017: 43).

### 3. Defending The Nation And Country

This film teaches us about the obligation to defend the nation and state from enemy attacks. As Omar Mukhtar and the Libyan people fought against the Italian invaders who were trying to seize and ravage the country of Libya. The struggle of Omar and the Libyan people is part of Islamic values which is reflected in the famous phrase *hubb al-wathan min al-iman* (love for the homeland is part of faith). So that it becomes an obligation for every citizen to defend his country from enemy attacks. In the current context, the enemy is not only physical, but also non-physical in the form of thoughts that can divide the nation and state.

Awareness of defending the country or nationalism and patriotism is essentially a willingness to serve the country and a willingness to sacrifice to defend the country's sovereignty. The spectrum of defending the country is very broad, starting from establishing good relations with fellow citizens to jointly warding off real threats from the enemy. It includes acting and doing what is best for the people, nation and state. Defending the state has elements that are able to ensure the firmness of the state (Gobel, 2018: 240).

### 4. To Defend The Truth

In several segments of the film, it is shown how the colonialists tried to lobby the rulers to hand over their territory to the colonialists. But Omar and the Libyan people reject such evil conspiracies. Omar remains adamant in his stance on the truth, that what is right must be defended even if it has to bear painful consequences. Omar's attitude is a reflection of what is conveyed in the hadith *aqula bi al-haqqi fainkana murran* (say the truth even though it feels bitter).

The courage shown by Omar and the Libyan people is courage in upholding the truth. Upholding the truth requires a lot of courage, especially facing people who have power or power. A brave person is required to be able to convey the truth to anyone, including the unjust ruler.

#### 5. Optimistic And Not Easily Discouraged

In the film is shown about a war that is not comparable, 400,000 Italian soldiers against 10,000 Libyan troops. Although the difference in the number of troops is very far, it has never made the Libyan people feel afraid in the slightest. They remain optimistic to win, even though fate says otherwise. Likewise, when Omar was about to be hanged, he never felt the slightest fear of such a punishment. In fact, he still had time to give his last words by encouraging the Libyan people to fight against colonialism. *"We won't give up, win or die, don't think it's over."*

#### 6. Always Prioritize Noble Character

When Omar Mukhtar was treated very inhumanely in prison, and was always hurled with harsh words, but Omar always responded with noble character. He never retaliated with dirty words, and never showed any bad behavior. Omar always showed noble character even to his opponents. Patience, trustworthiness, saying good, always being grateful, and so on can be found in various segments in the film. Noble morals are formed by human habits that come from within consciously and are applied in good deeds. Noble morality shows the strong foundation in establishing a good relationship between humans and God.

Morals have always been the main target of the educational process in Islam, because morality is considered the basis for the balance of human life which is the determinant of success for other pedagogical potentials. The principle of morality consists of four things, namely: 1) *Hikmah* is a psychological state situation where a person can distinguish between right and wrong things. 2) *Syaja'ah* (truth) is a psychic state in which a person vents or holds the potentiality of the emotional aspect under the control of reason. 3) *Iffah* (holiness) is controlling the potentiality of tastes or desires under the control of reason and the Shari'a. 4) *'Adl*(justice) is a psychological situation that regulates the level of emotions and desires according to needs when releasing or venting them (Mahmud, 2003: 25). Such principles must be instilled in students from an early age to build good character and morals.

## 7. No Betrayal

Although the Sultan of Turkey had agreed to a diplomatic agreement with Italy. But the agreement is seen as a symbol of Turkey's defeat to Italy. So that the Libyan people and including Omar Mukhtar vehemently rejected the agreement. On the other hand, they are even more passionate about jihad to defend the nation and state from colonialism. The lure of the world has never diminished the loyalty of Omar and the Libyan people to his nation and country. Therefore, we must not betray the nation and state.

## CONCLUSION

Lion of the Desert is an Islamic-style film that tells about the struggle of Omar Mukhtar and the Libyan people against Italian colonialism. When viewed carefully, many Islamic educational values are contained in the film, including: obedience to worship, social care attitude, building the spirit of nationalism and patriotism, defending the truth, being optimistic and not easily discouraged, promoting noble character, and not betraying, so that makes the film very good to be an interesting spectacle as well as a guide to instill values and good characters.

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