THE ROLE OF HUMANIST THOUGHT IN BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN ISLAM AND UNIVERSAL HUMAN VALUES

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Abstrak

Kajian ini mengeksplorasi peran penting pemikiran humanis dalam menjembatani kesenjangan antara Islam dan nilai-nilai kemanusiaan universal. Kajian ini menggunakan metode studi pustaka dengan pendekatan analisis literatur yang bersifat integratif dan komprehensif untuk mengumpulkan, mengevaluasi, dan mengintegrasikan temuan-temuan dari berbagai sumber literatur yang relevan dengan topik kajian. Hasil kajian ini menyatakan bahwa pemikiran humanis memainkan peran yang positif dalam menjembatani kesenjangan antara Islam dan nilai-nilai kemanusiaan universal, dan terus menjadi katalisator dalam membentuk dunia yang lebih inklusif dan berkelanjutan bagi semua individu, terlepas dari latar belakang agama atau budaya mereka. Hubungan antara Islam dan nilai-nilai kemanusiaan universal telah mengalami perkembangan yang positif, dengan pemikiran humanis berperan sebagai penghubung kunci yang mempromosikan dialog lintas agama dan toleransi. Dampak pemikiran humanis dalam masyarakat dan hubungan antarumat beragama juga signifikan, menciptakan lingkungan yang lebih inklusif, berkelanjutan, dan damai. Meskipun masih ada tantangan, pemikiran humanis tetap menjadi pendorong positif dalam membentuk dunia yang lebih baik bagi semua manusia, tanpa memandang latar belakang agama atau budaya mereka.

Kata Kunci: *Pemikiran Humanis; Islam; Nilai-Nilai Kemanusiaan Universal.*

Abstract

This study explores the critical role of humanist thought in bridging the gap between Islam and universal human values. This study uses the literature study method with an integrative and comprehensive literature analysis approach to collect, evaluate, and integrate findings from various literature sources relevant to the topic of study. Humanist thinking plays a positive role in bridging the gap between Islam and universal human values. It continues to catalyze a more inclusive and sustainable world for all individuals, regardless of their religious or cultural background. The relationship between Islam and universal human values has developed positively, with humanist thought as a critical link promoting interfaith dialogue and tolerance. The impact of humanist thinking in society and interreligious relations is also significant, creating a more inclusive, sustainable, and peaceful environment. Despite the challenges, humanist

thinking remains a positive driver in shaping a better world for all human beings, regardless of their religious or cultural background.

Keywords: *Humanist Thought; Islam; Universal Human Values.*

Introduction

Understanding and dialogue between different cultures, religions, and worldviews has become one of the main challenges in contemporary global society (Kirabaev, 2020; Malović & Vujica, 2021). In this context, one area of great relevance is the relationship between Islam and universal human values. These two entities, with unique histories, traditions, and beliefs, are often seen as separate worlds. However, humanist thought emerged as a potential approach to helping to build bridges between Islam and universal human values. Humanist thought can promote mutual understanding, tolerance, and cooperation across cultures and religions and foster essential commonalities in human views on human rights and justice (Halliwell & Mousley, 2003; Reisch, Ife, & Weil, 2013).

In the context of the relationship between Islam and universal human values, it is essential to recognize significant diversity in Islamic views and practices worldwide. A correct understanding of Islam should not be simplified into one homogeneous entity but should consider the nuances of different cultures, histories, and social contexts. Likewise, universal human values recognized worldwide are also diverse in their application and have roots in various traditions of thought, including humanist thought.

Humanist thinking, in essence, encourages understanding universal human values, such as human dignity, individual freedom, justice, and tolerance. These values can be linked to many Islamic teachings encouraging humanity, such as maqasid al-shariah, which focuses on preserving life, reason, religion, descent, and property. Humanist thinking can help bridge the gap between a common understanding of these values in Islam and globally accepted universal humanitarian concepts. In practice, humanist thinking can be used to design a more inclusive approach to cooperation between the Islamic community and the international community in the context of human rights, peace, and sustainable development. This can involve in-depth education about universal values and a better understanding of Islam as a religion that has the potential to support these values. In this case, humanist thought serves as a link that

delves into the similarities rather than differences between Islam and universal human values.

One of the critical points in the history of humanist thought is its emphasis on returning to classical sources, such as the works of ancient Greek philosophers and Roman philosophy. However, there are also strong references to the heritage of Eastern wisdom, including the knowledge from Muslim scholars during the period of Islamic heyday. This is one of the central points that can be used in building bridges between humanist and Islamic thought. History shows that there has been a period in which the development of science, art, and culture flourished in the Islamic world, which includes most of the scientific and literary discoveries of ancient greece. Therefore, a solid historical basis exists to explain that Islam has become a forum for humanist thinking and intellectual development. Although the era differed from today's, the emphasis on science, wisdom, and intercultural dialogue can be the basis for a more harmonious relationship between Islam and today's universal human values.

This study aims to analyze, understand, and describe the role played by humanist thought in linking Islamic teachings with universal human values. This study explores how the concepts of humanity in humanist thought align with Islamic teachings and how these understandings can be used to promote interreligious dialogue, tolerance, and cooperation to build a more inclusive and peaceful society. In addition, this study aims to identify the impact of humanist thinking in society and interreligious relations, as well as identify challenges that need to be overcome in understanding and adopting universal human values, with the hope of making a positive contribution to promoting peace, tolerance, and inclusivity in increasingly diverse societies.

Numerous studies have contributed to documenting and analyzing issues related to the relationship between Islam and universal human values. Several relevant studies have analyzed global survey data on Muslims' standard views and beliefs worldwide (Al-Hyari, Alnsour, Al-Weshah, & Haffar, 2012; T. Islam & Chandrasekaran, 2019; Wike & Grim, 2010). These studies illustrate the diversity of views within Muslim societies, highlighting that the views of radical minorities often distort perceptions of Islam. These studies help to understand the diversity in thought and belief in the Muslim world, which is relevant to humanist thought and encourages dialogue and better understanding. In addition, the works of thinkers such as Tariq Ramadan (2004) in his

book "Western Muslims and the Future of Islam" also provide perspectives on how Islam and universal human values can go hand in hand. Ramadan voiced the idea of reform from within, arguing that humanist thinking could be incorporated into a broader understanding of Islam to achieve equality with universal values.

Research by Karen Armstrong (2002) in the book "Islam: A Short History" describes the long history and development of thought in Islam. It helps understand the deep historical roots of tolerance and inclusiveness in understanding Islam, which can be used to build bridges between Islam and universal human values. In addition, research in scholarly journals such as "the Journal of Islamic Ethics" and "the Journal of Human Rights" also significantly contributes to understanding the ethical aspects of Islam and humanist thought and its impact on human rights and humanitarian issues. In developing this understanding, it can also see some concrete case studies that show genuine efforts in combining Islam with universal human values. For example, some countries with majority Muslim populations have initiated educational initiatives emphasizing human values in their Islamic curricula to promote interreligious tolerance and understanding (Aroff, 2014; Karimullah, Wati, Najib, & Wahyudi, 2023; Sahin, 2018; Zia, 2007).

The results of several previous studies provide a solid basis for further study of the role of humanist thought in the relationship between Islam and universal human values. The results of several previous studies also underscore the importance of understanding diversity in the understanding of Islam and the recognition that Islam has the potential to be a powerful tool in building bridges between cultures and universal human values. Further studies can deepen these concepts and identify best practices in applying humanist thought in the Islamic context. With a better understanding of these concepts, it is possible to proceed with a richer understanding of the role of humanist thought in linking Islam to universal human values in the context of an increasingly connected and complex world.

Research Methods

This study uses a literature study method with an integrative and comprehensive literature analysis approach. This method is used to collect, evaluate, and integrate findings from various literature sources relevant to the topic of study. An integrative and comprehensive approach to literature analysis allows researchers to explore a variety of viewpoints, theories, empirical findings, and emerging concepts from various

disciplines, such as religious studies, social sciences, history, and philosophy. In addition, in an integrative and comprehensive approach to literature analysis, researchers also look for weaknesses, limitations, and obstacles in the existing literature. It includes an introduction to the scope of research that has not been covered or unresolved debates. Identification of these weaknesses and barriers can help determine the direction of further research and raise research questions that are still open. With a literature study method that uses integrative and comprehensive literature analysis, this study aims to provide a deep and holistic understanding of the role of humanist thought in the context of the relationship between Islam and universal human values. With this approach, the review hopes to provide rich and comprehensive insights that will contribute to a better understanding of the topic.

Result and Discussion
The Concept of Humanism in Islam

Islam, as one of the world's great religions, has a rich history and heritage of thought. One aspect that needs to be emphasized in this understanding is the humanist thinking contained in Islam. Although often attention is drawn to religious and political issues, there are elements of thought that emphasize human dignity, social justice, and empathy in Islamic teachings that deserve scrutiny. Humanist thought in Islam reflects a deep concern for human dignity. This concept is embodied in the basic idea that each individual has a high intrinsic value in the view of God. Human life and dignity are considered sacred in Islam, and this is reflected in respect for human rights, including the right to life, liberty, and fair treatment (Karimullah, 2023).

Humanist thought in Islam also emphasizes the importance of social justice. Principles such as *zakat* (compulsory donation to people experiencing poverty) and *infaq* (almsgiving) highlight the social responsibility of individuals and the Islamic community to help the less fortunate. This concept reflects universal human values that support equality and justice in distributing resources and opportunities. Humanist thinking in Islam also involves the concept of empathy and concern for fellow human beings. The Qur'an and the hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad teach the importance of Mercy, both in individual relationships and in social and humanitarian actions. It creates a moral foundation for behavior that respects and supports the lives and well-being of fellow human beings.

The role of humanist thought in Islam is not limited to the individual sphere but also includes social and political aspects. The concept of humanist thought in Islam provides the basis for pursuing actions that produce justice, peace, and prosperity for all. It includes an active role in social efforts, public policy, and international diplomacy to create a more inclusive and harmonious environment. It is important to remember that understanding the concept of humanist thought in Islam is not static. The teachings of Islam continue to evolve and be interpreted by various scholars and Muslim communities worldwide. Therefore, the cultural and historical context also plays a vital role in the understanding and application of humanist thought in Islam. Different schools and schools of Islam may have different emphases regarding humanist thought. Still, similarities in universal human values remain at the core of the teachings of this religion.

One of the critical periods in Islamic history that reflects humanist thought is the heyday of Islam in the Middle Ages. During this time, the Islamic world experienced rapid intellectual development, with large libraries, universities, and research centers supporting studies in various disciplines. Muslim scholars played an essential role in preserving the works of ancient Greek philosophers such as Aristotle and Plato and developing thought in various fields, including science, medicine, philosophy, and literature (Haque, 2004; Hardy, 2002; Paya, 2016). Humanist thinking in this context emphasizes knowledge, exploration, and discovery. Furthermore, the concept of humanist thought in Islam also reflects the importance of a contextual and age-relevant interpretation of the Qur'an. Muslim *mufassir* (commentators) have developed approaches to relate the messages of the Qur'an to the challenges and issues their societies face. Thus, understanding Islam's religion becomes more relevant to the humanitarian problems faced by individuals and communities.

In a more contemporary context, humanist thinking in Islam can also be seen in an attempt to combine Islamic values with a broader human rights framework. Some Muslim thinkers and organizations have proposed that the teachings of Islam and the concepts of human rights are mutually supportive. For example, the Cairo Declaration on women's rights in Islam attempts to integrate human rights principles with the Islamic view of women's rights. In addition, humanist thought in Islam also includes the role of scholars and religious leaders in promoting peace, tolerance, and interreligious

dialogue. Despite differences of opinion among Muslim thinkers, many actively build bridges with other religions and promote peace. This example shows how humanist thinking in Islam can contribute to interfaith understanding and cooperation in an increasingly connected world.

Humanist thought in Islam also includes strong moral principles, such as compassion, Mercy, and concern for fellow human beings. These principles are reflected in various Hadiths and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad, which emphasize the importance of behaving well, helping the needy, and contributing to the well-being of society. In this context, humanist thought in Islam underlines the values that support social harmony and well-being. Humanist thought in Islam also includes concepts about peace and tolerance. In its history, Islam has examples of peace treaties between various religious communities, such as the *Hudaybiyyah* treaty at the time of the Prophet Muhammad. The concept can be seen as part of Islam's efforts to promote peace, dialogue, and tolerance between cultures (Karimullah, Faizin, & Islami, 2023).

It is essential to recognize that in discussing the concept of humanist thought in Islam, various challenges and controversies must be faced. One of the main challenges is interpreting and applying this concept in the real world. In history, conflicts and differences of views often arise in connection with the understanding of how the principles of humanist thought should be translated and integrated into society. For example, in the context of human rights, there is disagreement about the extent to which universally recognized human rights principles are in line with Islamic law. Issues often arise involving women's rights, minority rights, and freedom of religion. This creates a meaningful discussion about how Islam can integrate universal human values within legal and social frameworks.

In addition, in today's global context, conflict, terrorism, and extremism often dominate the conversation about Islam. For many, Islam's harsher and austere face becomes more prominent than the more peaceful and tolerant humanist thinking. Muslim communities and religious leaders often need to expose and encourage a deeper understanding of humanist thinking in Islam to counter negative stereotypes and prejudices. However, these efforts should also be undertaken cautiously, given the sensitivity and complexity of the issues. A deep understanding of humanist thought in

Islam must also seek to integrate the richness of plurality and diversity in Muslim thought worldwide.

Education has a crucial role in promoting humanist thinking in Islam. Islamic schools, universities, and educational institutions can be essential in spreading the understanding of humanist thought in Islam. Education based on universal human values can help teach young Muslims ethics, tolerance, compassion, and respect for human rights (Saada, 2023; Sabiq & Ckamim, 2020; Wati, Naimah, Karimullah, & Anggita, 2022). Through curricula incorporating aspects of humanist thought in Islam, education can help create Muslim citizens who are more aware of their role in promoting peace, justice, and social well-being. In addition to formal education, families, and communities are essential in educating individuals about humanist thought in Islam. These values can be taught and integrated into everyday life, such as educating children about empathy, helpfulness, and concern for their fellow human beings. The family can be the first place where individuals learn about these values, and they can put them into practice in everyday relationships.

Furthermore, modern media and technology have also had a significant impact on spreading Islam's humanist thought. Ideas and information about humanist thought in Islam can reach a wider audience through social media and online platforms. The Media can be a means to promote a deep understanding of this concept and inspire positive action. Regarding humanist thinking in Islam, interreligious dialogue is also essential. Through open and understanding dialogue with followers of other faiths, the Muslim community can expand its understanding of universal human values and find common ground with other faiths. It can promote tolerance, cooperation, and peace between cultures and religions. In addition, collaboration with non-governmental organizations and international institutions in various initiatives that support universal human values can be an integral part of efforts to promote humanist thinking in Islam. Many of these organizations focus on human rights, humanitarian aid, sustainable development, and global peace; cooperation with them can help improve understanding and action supporting those values.

The Relationship between Islam and Universal Human Values

One of the core elements of the relationship between Islam and universal human values is the concept of Tawheed, i.e., belief in one God who creates and controls the

universe. This concept affirms the unity and unity of all humanity under one creator. This creates a solid basis for understanding that humans, regardless of their religious or cultural background, are part of one great family that embraces human brotherhood. The message of brotherhood and equality in Islam is reflected in the concept of "ummah," which refers to a single Islamic community. Islam teaches that all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, or national background, are brothers and sisters in religion (Al Sadi & Basit, 2013; Beaman, 2016). This concept promotes unity and solidarity among Muslims and, at the same time, creates a foundation for understanding that positive relations with non-Muslims are also necessary.

The principles of Islamic teachings, such as justice, mercy, and kindness, directly reflect universal human values. Islam emphasizes the importance of doing good to others, assisting people in need, and practicing justice in all aspects of life. These values are not limited to the Muslim community but encompass all of humanity. Islam's attitude towards human rights is also very relevant in this context. The teachings of Islam recognize the dignity of man as an endowed being and respect human rights. It includes rights such as the right to life, freedom of religion, education, and life in dignity and honor.

Islam has contributed significantly to developing Science, art, and humanity throughout its history. Islamic civilizations centered in the Middle East, such as during the heyday of the Abbasids and the Andalusian caliphate, became centers of learning and dissemination of knowledge worldwide. The scientific and philosophical works produced by Muslim scholars of the time greatly impacted world civilization. However, as in all religions and societies, Islamic values and principles have diverse interpretations. In some cases, human values in Islam may be ignored or forgotten, and actions contrary to universal human values may occur. Therefore, it is essential to encourage a deeper understanding of human values in Islam and promote practices that support these values.

The concept of *amanah* (trust) is a central element in Islamic teachings supporting universal human values. In Islam, *amanah* refers to God's trust in humans to take care of and care for the universe. It creates a moral responsibility to take care of the environment and manage natural resources wisely, a value particularly relevant in climate change and environmental protection. The message of peace also became a

significant foothold in Islam, with Islam meaning "peace."Islam teaches peace, tolerance, and good relations with fellow human beings, including those of different religions or beliefs. In a world sometimes tinged by conflict and tension, the message of peace in Islam has become essential in promoting dialogue, peace, and better understanding among diverse peoples.

Islam also teaches the values of justice and mercy. The principle of justice encompasses all aspects of life, both in law and social systems, and underlines the importance of fair treatment of all individuals. The principle of compassion reflects a sense of empathy and care towards those who suffer or need help. These two values, justice and mercy, are universal human values that are relevant in a global context. The history of Islam also records a significant contribution to the development of science and art (A. Islam, 2011; M. H. Islam, 2019). In the past, Muslim scholars produced great works in science, mathematics, medicine, astronomy, and various other disciplines. These works became the foundation for the development of science and technology worldwide.

However, as in other religions and societies, Islamic practices can vary. There are different views and interpretations of the teachings of Islam, which can lead to differences in how human values are applied. Therefore, promoting a deeper understanding of human values in Islam and supporting practices that support these values is important. In addition, collaboration between Muslim and non-Muslim communities is essential in the face of global challenges such as climate change, poverty, and conflict. These issues are not limited to one religion or culture; their solution requires cross-religious and cross-cultural cooperation.

It is essential to recognize that there is a fundamental concept of religious freedom in Islam. Although Islam is a vital religion accepted by most Muslim communities, Islamic teachings consistently assert that faith should be an individual choice. This creates the basis for the understanding that the right to choose one's faith and religion is a universal human right that must be respected. The concept of non-discrimination is also an essential element in Islam. Islam teaches that all human beings, regardless of race, ethnicity, or cultural background, are Allah's creation and have equal rights (M. H. Islam, 2020; R'boul, 2021). In this context, Islam emphasizes that

discrimination against individuals or groups based on race, ethnicity, or religion contradicts universal human values.

The social principles in Islam also reflect universal human values. Islam encourages the Giving of zakat, which is the obligation to give part of the property to those in need, alms, or acts of mercy to one's neighbor (Faizin, Karimullah, Faizal, & Lubis, 2023). This concept of social care creates a solid foundation to support a more just and equitable society. To achieve this goal, Islam plays a significant role in education. Education is a path to a deeper understanding of human and universal values. Therefore, educational institutions in Muslim societies, such as madrasas and Islamic schools, often encourage teaching human values, ethics, and peace. However, it is essential to remember that human values in Islam are often applied variously, depending on the historical and cultural context. There are differing views within the Muslim community on various issues, including social, political, and gender issues. Therefore, dialogue and a deeper understanding of these diverse views are essential in addressing issues relevant to today's global society.

The message of peace and tolerance in Islam also creates a strong foundation for harmonious relations with people of different faiths and beliefs. Islam teaches its people to live in peace and be fair to all, even non-Muslims. It reflects the universal values of peace, harmony, and tolerance recognized by the global community. Social principles in Islam that encourage justice, poverty alleviation, and sharing of property with people in need create a framework that aligns with global efforts to address social inequality and poverty. Islam emphasizes caring for others and sharing property with people in need as universal human values.

In the context of universal human values, it is essential to note the critical role of women in Islam. Despite differences of opinion and practice in various Muslim communities, Islam recognizes women's rights and their dignity as individuals. Human values such as equality, freedom, and women's reproductive rights are central to the debate in this context. Part of the current global challenge is how these values are understood, applied, and championed in Muslim societies worldwide. The message of peace and tolerance in Islam can also be used to overcome societal divisions and conflicts. Islam teaches peace as a goal to be pursued, and its message of tolerance and justice can be the basis for interreligious dialogue and cooperation. In the context of

differences in faith and religion, these values become essential in promoting understanding and harmony among diverse communities.

In an era of globalization, where culture and ideas can spread rapidly through modern technology, exploring how human values in Islam interact with global values is essential. Islam can provide valuable insights into communicating and collaborating in an increasingly connected and interdependent world. However, as in all religions and cultures, there are different views and interpretations of human values in Islam. There are various approaches to global issues, such as human rights, climate change, and global peace. Therefore, interreligious and intercultural cooperation and dialogue and a deeper understanding of these diverse views are essential in achieving practical solutions to global challenges. With a deep understanding of these values and cross-religious solid and intercultural cooperation, we can work together to promote peace, justice, equality, human rights, and sustainability as the basis for a more inclusive, sustainable, and peaceful global society in the future. It is a global challenge that requires the collaboration and joint efforts of all communities and individuals worldwide.

Impact of Humanist Thought on Society and Interreligious Relations

Humanist thinking has significantly impacted society, especially in efforts to create a more inclusive and sustainable society. The basic concepts of humanist thought are respect for human dignity and protection of individual human rights. It has driven positive change in many aspects of life, such as social change, policy, and societal approaches to human rights. In societies inspired by humanist thought, individual rights, including the right to worship and belief, are respected and guaranteed.

One of the most important effects is better interreligious tolerance and dialogue in humanist societies. This concept creates a solid foundation for respecting differences in religious and cultural beliefs. When individuals and communities adopt humanist values, they are more likely to open up to inter-religious dialogue and cooperation. It creates an environment that allows various religious communities to work together to solve everyday problems and promote peace. Humanist thought also recognizes the importance of social justice and equality. In a society that values humanist thinking, existing social and economic differences are perceived as problems to be overcome. This creates a commitment to achieving social justice and poverty alleviation. In this

context, all social groups, including religious minorities, have equal access to resources and opportunities.

In a society reflected in humanist thought, values such as empathy and compassion are at the heart of social action and community service. This creates an atmosphere in which people are more likely to help their fellow human beings in situations of difficulty and encourage humanitarian action. We often see non-governmental organizations, humanitarian agencies, and volunteer groups developing initiatives to help those in need. As part of humanist thought, efforts to protect human rights, including the right to religion and freedom of belief, were also strengthened. This creates a strong foundation for maintaining justice and avoiding discrimination against individuals or groups based on their religious beliefs. Societies that adhere to humanist thinking tend to respect and protect these individual rights, creating a more inclusive and religious environment.

However, it is essential to remember that challenges still need to be overcome in an effort to realize humanist thinking. One of the main challenges is resistance to change, especially from groups that may feel threatened by human values that respect the dignity of the individual. Conflict, inequality, and social injustice still exist in many parts of the world, and hard work is needed to address these issues (Hope Sr, 2020; Newell, Srivastava, Naess, Torres Contreras, & Price, 2021). In addition, in an era of globalization that is increasingly shortening distances and expanding interactions, people must learn to live together in religious, cultural, and ethnic diversity. This requires education, interfaith dialogue, and more extraordinary cross-cultural efforts to create deeper understanding and tolerance.

In societies endowed with humanist thought, there is also a reduction in violence and conflicts based on religion. Humanist thought emphasizes peace, dialogue, and interfaith cooperation as essential cornerstones. Individuals who adhere to humanist thinking are more likely to seek common ground with individuals from various religious backgrounds and are willing to work together to achieve common goals, which can reduce tension and conflict. The role of the media and education in a humanist society is also essential. Independent and ethical media and educational curricula that teach human values can greatly promote tolerance, understanding, and empathy among

religious believers. In this way, society becomes more educated about the differences and similarities between religions, reducing mistrust and conflict.

In humanist societies, there is also increased awareness of global issues such as climate change, peace, and poverty. People who adhere to humanist thinking are more likely to engage in social and humanitarian action to address these global problems. They see these challenges as humanity's shared responsibility and try to find inclusive and sustainable solutions. However, it is essential to remember that humanist thinking is not a magic solution to all problems. Challenges such as religious fanaticism, social inequality, and extremism still exist in many parts of the world. Sometimes, human values may be ignored or even perceived as a threat. Therefore, it is necessary to make constant efforts to promote these values and overcome existing barriers.

Humanist thinking inspires many individuals and groups to engage in charitable and social work. The human values that underlie humanist thinking, such as empathy, caring, and awareness of social issues, encourage many people to contribute to helping those in need. Humanitarian organizations based on these values often serve as a means for individuals from different religious backgrounds to work together on social projects to improve society's well-being. Humanist thinking also encourages interfaith cooperation in solving complex social problems. When individuals and groups from different religious backgrounds adhere to the same values of empathy, tolerance, and concern for human dignity, they are more likely to work together to solve relevant issues. Examples of this are joint efforts in overcoming poverty, disease, and conflict that often involve the active participation of various religious communities.

Humanist thought also created the basis for more significant social change. Values such as justice, gender equality, and Human Rights integrated into humanist thinking help trigger changes in societal views and government policies. For example, in societies influenced by humanist thought, same-sex marriage may find more excellent support due to the value of equality and individual freedom. But it is worth recognizing that humanist thinking can also generate resistance, especially in religious contexts. Some may feel that humanist values conflict with religious teachings, creating tension in interreligious relationships. Therefore, educational efforts and interreligious dialogue are essential in helping to overcome differences of view and promote a more profound understanding.

In a society that embraces humanist thinking, there is an increase in community participation in efforts to solve social and humanitarian problems. This creates a domino effect that leads to more people getting involved in social action, charity work, and community empowerment efforts. This concept of active participation allows people to formulate solutions to their problems and form a more empowered society. In addition, humanist thinking also influences many government policies in various countries. Principles such as justice, human rights, and equality are integrated within the framework of policies aimed at improving the quality of life and well-being of citizens. It creates a legal foundation that protects individual rights, including religious rights and freedom of belief.

Humanist thinking also creates a strong foundation for efforts to maintain peace and resolve conflict in a religiously and culturally diverse society. Human values such as tolerance, dialogue, and empathy become essential in conflict resolution and maintaining harmony among religious communities. For example, reconciliation and peace efforts can find more significant support in a country strengthened by humanist thinking. However, the challenge that needs to be faced is that humanist thinking is not always well received in all walks of life. Some individuals or groups may view it as threatening their values or beliefs, creating tension and conflict. Therefore, it is essential to continue promoting a deeper understanding of humanist thought and how these values can coexist with religious beliefs.

One of the critical impacts of humanist thought is the increase in awareness of social and humanitarian issues. This thinking encourages individuals and societies to be more concerned with poverty, inequality, injustice, and insecurity. It triggers various humanitarian initiatives, whether through non-governmental organizations, social actions, or charitable campaigns, to address these problems. Humanist thinking also promotes an inclusive and sustainable approach to community development. Values such as social justice and equality lead to efforts to reduce social inequalities, including inequalities in access to education, health, and employment. Societies inspired by humanist thought seek to create equal opportunities for all individuals regardless of religion or cultural background.

Humanist thought creates a solid basis for dialogue and tolerance in the context of interfaith relations. Values such as empathy and respect for human rights lead to a

concerted effort to understand differences in religious beliefs (Hasanah & Abbas, 2023; Osler & Skarra, 2021; Rohmah, Kholish, & Galib, 2022). This helps create an environment where faith-based conflict can be avoided, and cooperation between religious communities in humanitarian efforts becomes more likely. However, a continuing challenge is a resistance to change from some groups who may feel threatened by humanist thinking. Traditional values or religious dogmas may sometimes conflict with human values, creating tension in religious relationships. Therefore, ongoing educational and dialogue efforts are essential in overcoming differences and creating a more profound understanding.

In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, shared human values such as empathy, justice, and religious freedom are essential for building inclusive and sustainable societies. With diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, they can work together to address global challenges such as climate change, conflict, and poverty. Humanist thought plays a vital role in guiding towards a more just and peaceful world, where all individuals have equal opportunities and are respected without discrimination based on religion or belief. This thinking brings human values, empathy, and tolerance, creating an inclusive and sustainable environment. Despite the challenges that need to be overcome, humanist thinking continues to be a positive driver in shaping a better world for all human beings, regardless of their religious or cultural background. With education, dialogue, and joint efforts, we can create a more inclusive, sustainable, and peaceful global society in the future.

Conclusion

Humanist thought has excellent potential to build bridges between Islam and universal human values, creating an inclusive, sustainable, and peaceful environment where individuals from different religious backgrounds can live together in harmony. The concept of humanist thought in Islam, especially regarding respect for human dignity, empathy, and social justice, has provided a solid foundation for understanding and applying universal human values spanning the entire spectrum of religions and cultures. The relationship between Islam and universal human values has developed positively, with humanist thought as a critical link promoting interfaith dialogue and tolerance. The impact of humanist thinking in society and interreligious relations is also

significant, creating a more inclusive, sustainable, and peaceful environment. Despite the challenges, humanist thinking remains a positive driver in shaping a better world for all human beings, regardless of their religious or cultural background. With a constant commitment to education, dialogue, and cooperation, we can create a more inclusive and sustainable global society in the future.

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