

Popular Culture, Religion and Society.
A Social-Scientific Approach 1

Al Makin

Challenging Islamic Orthodoxy

Accounts of Lia Eden and
Other Prophets in Indonesia



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Popular Culture, Religion and Society. A Social-Scientific Approach

Volume 1

Series editor

Adam Possamai, Western Sydney University, Australia

What happens when popular culture not only amuses, entertains, instructs and relaxes, but also impacts on social interactions and perception in the field of religion? This series explores how religion, spirituality and popular culture co-exist intimately. Religion sometimes creates and regulates popular culture, religious actors who express themselves in popular culture are also engaged in shaping popular religion, and in doing so, both processes make some experiences possible for some, and deny access to others. The central theme of this series is thus on how religion affects and appropriates popular culture, and on how popular culture creates and/or re-enforces religion. The interaction under scrutiny is not only between the imaginary and 'real' world but also between the online and off-line one, and this revitalises the study of popular religion through its involvement in popular culture and in new social media technologies such as Facebook and Twitter. Works presented in this series move beyond text analysis and use new and ground-breaking theories in anthropology, communication, cultural studies, religious studies, social philosophy, and sociology to explore the interrelation between religion, popular culture, and contemporary society.

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*To my beloved wife, Ro'fah, who, with love
and strength, cares for our mommy, Bune
Siwat, who just left us.*

Acknowledgments

In writing this book, I liken myself to a traveler returning home from a long journey to a foreign land. This is so, as my dissertation (Makin 2010a) discusses the theme of prophethood in the Arabian Peninsula during the seventh century. This book still chooses the subject of prophethood but in a different place and context—that is, in my homeland, Indonesia. During the course of writing this book, I visited some old and new friends in Bojonegoro, Yogyakarta, Jakarta, and Medan. I went to the old places of my childhood and to new places as well, where I found with surprise various religious traditions. In Indonesian studies, I often hear a dilemma raised by Indonesian and non-Indonesian scholars—that is, on one hand, Indonesians still inadequately promote the rich archipelagic traditions and cultures in the world forum; on the other hand, however, only a few Indonesians pay attention to subjects or areas outside the country. When I wrote my dissertation at Heidelberg University, Germany, I was an Indonesian student who underwent the task of studying classical Arabic literature. Now, I, like many other Indonesian scholars such as Azyumardi Azra, am concerned by the fact that many works about Indonesia are still penned by non-Indonesians. Apparently, Indonesians like to talk about themselves, yet their works are not taken seriously enough to be deemed suitable for publication in English. When I taught the course “the History of Politics and Religion in Java” at the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS) and the Center for Religious and Cross-cultural Studies (CRCS), Gajah Mada University of Yogyakarta, in 2013, Peter Carey, invited as the guest professor in the course, also raised this issue. That is, more Indonesian scholars need to promote their own tradition, but at the same time need to show their knowledge about the world outside of their county. With this book, I, like many other Indonesian colleagues with their publications, wish to humbly contribute to scholarly discussion about Indonesia by Indonesians.

All in all, this work owes a million thanks to numerous friends, colleagues, teachers and students—first of all, to Michael Feener who kindly and generously invited me to join the Asia Research Institute (ARI) of the National University of Singapore, which granted me the fellowship to pursue this dream publication. My gratitude also goes to Prasenjit Duara, the director of the ARI. Thanks to all of the ARI’s staff (Kalaichelvi Krisnan, Vernice Tan Ser Nee, Jonathan Lee Ming Yao, and

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Abbreviations and Special Words

Abbreviations

AKABRI	Akademi Bersenjata Republik Indonesia (The Indonesian Armed Force Academy).
AKKB	Aliansi Kebangsaan untuk Kebebasan Beragama dan Berkeyakinan (The National Alliance For the Freedom to Embrace Religion and Faith).
ASK	Angesti Sampurnaning Kautaman (Seeking the Perfection of Character), a mystical sect founded by Darmopodo.
Bakorpakem	Badan Koordinasi Pengawas Aliran Kepercayaan (The Coordinating Board for Monitoring Mystical groups in Society).
Baksos	Bakti sosial (social service).
BK5I	Badan Koordinasi Karyawan Kerohanian Kebatinan Kejiwaan Indonesia (The Coordination Body of Association of the believers in Spirituality and Mysticism in Indonesia).
BKKI	Badan Kongres Kebatinan Indonesia (The Congress Council of Indonesian Mysticism).
BKOK	Badan Koordinasi Organisasi Kepercayaan terhadap Tuhan Yang Maha Esa (Coordination Body of Organizations of Believers in One God).
BKR	Badan Keamanan Rakyat (The People's Security Agency).
BPK	Badan Pemeriksa Keuangan (The State Audit Agency).
BPN	Badan Pertanahan Nasional (The National Land Agency).
BPS	Badan Pusat Statistik (The Central Statistics Agency).
DDI	Dewan Dakwah Islam (The Council of Islamic Missionary).
DKT	Jawatan Kesehatan Tentara (The Army's Health Department).
DPR	Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat (The House of Representatives).
DSN	Dewan Syariah Nasional (The National Sharia Council) of the MUI (see also MUI).

FAPB	Front Anti Permurtadan Bekasi (The Front for Anti-Apostasy in Bekasi).
FKPK	Forum Komunikasi Penghayat Kepercayaan terhadap Tuhan Yang Maha Esa (The Forum for Communication of the Believers in One God).
FPI	Front Pembela Islam (Islamic Defenders Front).
FUI	Forum Umat Islam (The Islamic Community Forum).
GAM	Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (The Aceh's Movement for Independence).
GKJ	Gedung Kesenian Jakarta (The Art Building of Jakarta).
Golkar	Golongan Karya (The Party of the Functional Group), the ruling political party during the New Order of Soeharto.
HMI	Himpunan Mahasiswa Islam (The Muslim Student Association).
HPK	Himpunan Penghayat Kepercayaan (The Association of Mystical Groups' Believers).
HTI	Indonesian Hizbut Tahrir (The Indonesian Party of Liberation).
IAIN	Institut Agama Islam Negeri (The State Institute of Islamic Studies), two of the notable IAINs, Jakarta and Yogyakarta, have transformed into UINs (The State Islamic University).
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
ICRP	Indonesian Conference for Religion and Peace.
IIQ	Institut Ilmu Quran (The Institute of Quranic Studies).
IPB	Institut Pertanian Bogor (The Bogor Institute of Agriculture).
ITB	Institute Teknologi Bandung (The Bandung Institute Technology).
JIL	Jaringan Islam Liberal (The Liberal Islam Network).
Kamtibmas	Keamanan dan Ketertiban Masyarakat (The Society's Security and Order).
KKN	korupsi, kolusi, dan nepotisme (corruption, collusion, and nepotism).
KPKB	Koalisi Pembela Kebebasan Beragama (The Coalition in Defense of Freedom of Religion).
KPU	Komite Pemilihan Umum (The General Election Commission).
KUA	Kantor Urusan Agama (The Local Religious Affairs Office).
KUHAP	Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Acara Pidana (The Book of Law on Criminal Procedure and Code).
KUHP	Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Pidana (The Book of Law on Criminal Code).
LBH	Lembaga Bantuan Hukum (The Legal Aid Institute).
LE2	Lia Eden Two (a signature by Lia Eden indicating that she is the representative of Gabriel on earth; in Lia Eden there are two elements: Lia and Gabriel).
LPPI	Lembaga Pengkajian dan Penelitian Islam (The Institute for Study and Research of Islam), founded and led by Amin Djamaluddin in Central Jakarta.
Masyumi	Majelis Syuro Muslimin Indonesia (The Council for Indonesian Muslims Association).

MK	Mahkamah Konstitusi (The Constitutional Court).
MMI	Majelis Mujahidin Indonesia (The Indonesian Council for Jihadi People).
MPR	Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat (The People's Consultative Assembly).
Monas	Monument Nasional (The National Monument in Jakarta).
MS-PPMT	Majelis Syura Pondok Pesantren Modern Terpadu (The High Council of Modern Islamic Boarding School System).
MUI	Majelis Ulama Indonesia (The Indonesian Ulama Council).
NGO	Non-governmental organization.
NRM	New Religious Movement.
NU	Nahdlatul Ulama (the Rise of the Ulama), the biggest Muslim organization in Indonesia.
Pakem	Pengawasan Aliran Kepercayaan Masyarakat (Watchdog for Mystical Sects in Society)
PBB	Partai Bulan Bintang (The Crescent Party).
PBR	Partai Bintang Reformasi (The Reform Star Party).
PERSIS	Persatuan Islam (The Islamic Union).
Pertamina	Perusahaan Pertambangan Minyak dan Gas Bumi Negara (The State Oil and Natural Gas Mining Company).
Pesindo	Pemuda Sosialis Indonesia (The Indonesian Socialist Youth).
Peta	Pembela Tanah Air (The Homeland Defenders).
PGA	Pendidikan Guru Agama (The High School for Religious Teachers).
PKS	Partai Keadilan Sejahtera (The Prosperous Justice Party).
PNI	Partai Nasional Indonesia (The National Indonesian Party).
Q.	Quran, Muslim scripture.
RT	Rukun Tetangga (neighborhood unit), the smallest unit of village administration.
RW	Rukun Warga (village administration coordinating the RTs), see also RT.
SBY	Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the current Indonesian president.
SCTV	Surya Citra Televisi, a private Indonesian TV station.
SK	Surat Keputusan (letter of appointment).
SKK	Sekretariat Kerjasama Kepercayaan terhadap Tuhan Yang Maha Esa (The Joint Secretariat of the Cooperation of the Believers in One God).
SMA	Sekolah Menengah Atas (Senior High School).
SMP	Sekolah Menengah Pertama (Junior High School).
STIA-LAN	Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Administrasi Lembaga Negara (The State Institute of State Administration).
Subud	Susilo Budhi Dharma (For the Service of Noble Characters), a mystical sect founded by Muhammad Subuh.
TPKB	Tim Pembela Kebebasan Beragama (The Advocates Team for Defending the Freedom of Religions).
UGM	Gajah Mada University.

UI	Indonesian University.
UIN	Universitas Islam Negeri (State Islamic University), see also IAIN.
WK	Wahana Kebangsaan (The Patriotic Forum), referring to the members of Eden group who live outside Mahoni Street, or adepts.

Special Words

Asri	A known magazine specializing in arranging houses.
Ahlu kitab	The people of the book—a term in Islamic tradition referring to Jews and Christians. However, this term is used by Muchidin Safa, also known as Abu Ala, a claimant to prophethood based in Jakarta, to refer to Muslims, who do not testify of his prophethood.
Agama Adam	Adam's religion (referring to Samin).
Agus Nata Sukarno Putra	Agus, the son of Sukarno in charge, a title borne by Agus Imam Sholihin, a claimant to prophethood based in Jakarta.
Aliran kebatinan/kepercayaan	Mystical/spiritual sects.
Al-Masih al-maw'ud	The awaited Messiah, a title borne by Ahmad Mushoddeq, a claimant to prophethood based in Jakarta.
Anggota	Member (Indonesian), referring to the members of Subud.
At-Taibin	Those who repent, an NGO founded by Lia Eden.
Balai desa	Village office (Indonesian).
Bale Pasogit	The headquarter of Parmalim in Hutatinggi Lagobuti Sumatera.
Banua ginjang	The upper part of the world inhabited by Gods (Batak).
Banua tonga	The middle part of the world inhabited by mankind (Batak).
Banua toru	The underworld (Batak).
Bapak	Father (Indonesian).
Batara Guru	God of Justice who created this world (Batak).
Begu	Spirit (Batak).
Bintang kemukus	Comet (Javanese), believed to appear in the sky during Sukarno's birthday.
Bius	Rite with sacrificing buffalo (Batak).
Bongso Walondo	The Dutch (Javanese).
Budi luhur	Committed to virtuous deeds (Javanese).

Bulu bekti	Paying taxes to show obedience to a ruler (Javanese).
Bunda Maria	The Virgin Mary, of whom Lia Eden is believed to be the reincarnation.
Bupati	District's head.
Carik	Village's secretary.
Dajjal	Antichrist.
Dakwah	Islamic missionary.
Dalang	Shadow puppet player (Javanese).
Datu	Traditional healer (Batak).
Dawuh	Command (one of divine revelation received by claimant to prophethood), see also wisik, ilham, sabda, wahyu, and sapaan.
Debata Natolu	Three Gods (Batak).
Departemen Kejaksaan	The Attorney General.
Dewan Kerasulan	The Prophetic Council, referring to 20 followers of the Eden group, or devotees.
Dharma Wanita	The Wives' Association of Civil Servants.
Doli-doli	Young men (Batak).
Dukun	Traditional healer (Javanese).
Eden	The religious movement or group founded by Lia Eden.
Erucakra	Awaited just king (Javanese).
Gondang	Batak drum.
Habib al-Huda	Guide to enlightenment, later believed to be the Archangel Gabriel who guided Lia Eden.
Hadatuon	Miracle (Batak).
Halal	Allowed foods or acts in Islamic law.
Haram	Forbidden foods or acts in Islamic law.
HMA	huwal mu'jizatul a'la (he who has the highest miracle), a title borne by Bijak Bestari, a claimant to prophethood based in Jakarta.
Ruhul Amin	The true Spirit, a name of Gabriel (Lia Eden).
Ihutan	Leader (Batak).
Ilham	Inspiration (one of divine revelation received by claimants to prophethood), see also wisik, dawuh, sabda, wahyu, and sapaan.
Imam besar	Great spiritual leader (Indonesian), a title borne by Abdul Rachman, the second most important person in the Eden group.
Iqra	A method to learn Arabic letters.
Jati sawit	Endeavor (cultivating self), in the Samin teaching (Javanese).

Jawa'	guide of human beings, a title borne by Amaq Bakri, claimant to prophethood based in Lombok.
Jilbab	Veil worn by Muslim woman.
Jimat	Amulet (Javanese).
Joan of Arc	A fifteenth-century French saint and heroine who was executed by burning at the stake, of whom Lia Eden is believed to be the reincarnation
Jujur	Honest (Javanese).
Kabah	The sacred house in Mecca serving as the direction of Muslims' prayers.
Kartini	Indonesian feminist hero, of whom Lia Eden is believed to be the reincarnation.
Kedap	Self-isolation from the crowd (Lia Eden).
Ketoprak	Traditional Javanese drama with high Javanese language or kromo.
Kiamat	doomsday (Indonesia).
Kitab Sasangka Jati	The Book of True Self, Scripture of Pangestu.
Khatam	the finality of Muhammad's prophethood in Islam; no prophet will come after him.
Konco sikep	Companion of those who embrace wives and lands, referring to Samin followers.
Kunti	The queen of Hastinapura and the mother of Pandava in the epic of Mahabharata, of whom Lia Eden is believed to be the reincarnation.
Kyai	Islamic leaders or teacher of pesantren (see also pesantren and santri).
Lampahing urip	Life journey, in the Samin teaching (Javanese).
Latihan	Spiritual training (Indonesian) (Subud).
Londo Mondolan	Javanese officials during the Dutch era.
Lumbung desa	Village's rice bank.
Ludruk	Traditional East Javanese drama with ngoko/low level of Javanese.
Lurah	Village's head.
Malim/Ugamo Malim	White or pure religion in Batak.
Mangan napaet	Asking forgiveness from God in the Malim religion.
Marari sabtu	Parmalim Saturday sermon.
Marsomba tu debata	Showing thanks to God in the Malim religion.
Martutuaek	Celebration of the birth in the Malim religion.
Mengala Bulan	The master of evil (Batak).
Modin	Islamic official at the village level.
Mubalahah	Public debate with curse for those whose view are proven wrong.

Muholla	Small mosque.
Muhammadiyah	The second biggest Muslim organization in Indonesia.
Muktamar	Meeting and discussion among NU leaders.
Mula Jadi Na Bolon	The supreme God, who began all existences (Batak).
Murabbi	Teacher, rank in the Tarbiyah circle.
Murbo Hamaseso	God who is the sovereign of the universe (Sumarah Purbo).
Nabi	Prophet, those who claimed leadership with the legitimacy of divine revelation and charisma, bringing a mission to revitalize the world order.
Naga Padoha	The powerful ocean snake causing natural earthquakes, thunders, and rains (Batak).
Najis	Considered dirty in Islam law.
Nandang	those who tell only the truth, a title borne by Amaq Bakri, a claimant to prophethood based in Lombok.
Narima	Accepting, or feeling sufficient (Javanese).
Ngelmu	Knowledge (Javanese).
Nyai Roro Kidul/Ratu Kidul	The Goddess of the South Javanese Sea.
Ojek	Motorcycle taxi.
Paduka Bunda Lia	"Her Majesty Mother Lia," a title borne by Lia Eden.
Paliwara	Prohibitions (Pangestu).
Pancasila	The Five Principles of Indonesia, also referring to five teachings in Samin in Tapelan Bojonegoro, and five commandments of Pangestu.
Pande manusia	Expert in human affairs, a title borne by Amaq Bakri, a claimant to prophethood based in Lombok.
Panembah	Prayer or meditation.
Panembahan	Honorable leader (Javanese), a title borne by Akhmad Mukhyar, a claimant to prophethood based in East Java.
Pangestu	Paguyuban Ngesti Tunggal (forum for seeking union with God), a mystical sect founded by Sunarto.
Panuntun Agung Sri Gutama	The great Guide, a title borne by the founder of Sapta Dharma Harjosapuro.
Paranpara	Spiritual advisor or guide, referring to Sunarto, the founder of Pangestu.
Parbaringin	Batak priests.
Parhudamdandam	Batak native religion.

Parmalim	The believers of Ugamo Malim/pure or white religion in Batak.
Pasahat tondi	Mourning the dead in the Malim religion.
Pelatih	Spiritual trainer (Indonesian) (Subud).
Pengageng	Ruler (Javanese), a title borne by Sumito Joyokusumo, a claimant to divinity based in Central Java.
Pengajian	Islamic sermon.
Perennialism	Unity of all religions and faiths (Lia Eden).
Persantian	Branches office of Parmalim.
Pesantren	Traditional Islamic boarding school (see also santri and kyai).
Pikukuh kesejatin	The true existence, in the Samin teaching (Javanese).
Pingit	Seclusion for Javanese girls before marriage.
Priyayi	Javanese noble people.
Pustaka Poda Hangoluan	Malim's scripture.
Racut	The highly deemed stage of contemplation in Sapta Dharma, a union with God during which one experiences death in life.
Rasul	Messenger, many prophets in Indonesia claiming to be God's messenger. However, Lia Eden designates her devotees, who live in the Eden house, as messengers.
Ratib	Recitation (Arabic).
Ratu Adil	Just king, known as Eru Cakra in Java.
Ratu Rabul Alamin	The king of the universe (Arabic), a title borne by Kayin Bapa Kayah, a claimant to prophethood based in West Java.
Reincarnation	During colonial times, many claimed to be the reincarnations of Si Singamangaraja XII. In the reform period, many prophets across Java were also believed to be the reincarnations of mythical figures. Lia Eden, on the other hand, believes that the spirits of deceased persons are transformed into the persons of the next generations, who are still burdened with the sins of previous persons, and the current persons are therefore obliged to cleanse the sins of the past persons (Lia Eden).
Resi Brahmana	The supreme priest, a title borne by the founder of Sapta Dharma Harjosapuro.
Rido	Sincere (Javanese).
Roh Suci	The Holy Spirit from which all spirits of lives come (Pangestu).