

THE CORE VALUES OF THE BUGIS LIFE PHILOSOPHY AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO TUHFAT AL-NAFIS

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Background: This study explores the core values of the Bugis life philosophy as reflected in ancient *Lontara* manuscripts and examines their relevance to *Tuhfat Al-Nafis*, a historical text written by Raja Ali Haji. The *Lontara* heritage encapsulates moral, social, and spiritual principles that guide both individual behavior and governance. The research aims to analyze how the philosophical concepts of *siri'* (honor), *lempu'* (honesty), *getteng* (integrity), *reso* (diligence), and *pesse* (empathy) are manifested in the narratives of *Tuhfat Al-Nafis* and how these values shape leadership and ethical behavior.

Method: Using a qualitative descriptive approach, this study employs textual analysis of selected *Lontara* passages and cross-references them with key sections of *Tuhfat Al-Nafis*.

Results and Discussion: The findings indicate that *siri'*, expressed in the *Lontara* saying “*Siri' na pacce iyanaritu to Bugis-e, iya na napakau madecengngi tau*” (*Siri'* and *pacce* make a person truly human), serves as the moral foundation of Bugis identity and inspires dignity and resistance, as exemplified by Raja Haji Fisabilillah's defense of his nation. *Lempu'*, as captured in “*Aja muelliwi lempu', nasabaé lempu' riasengnge tau patujue*” (Never abandon honesty, for it defines the righteous), emphasizes truthfulness and integrity in leadership and governance. *Getteng*, expressed in “*Tau getteng-é, tena mapettu-pettu sirinna, tena massappa-sappa atinna*” (A steadfast person never wavers in honor or courage), symbolizes moral consistency and perseverance. Similarly, the proverb “*Reso temmangingi na temmappasussai*” (Persistent effort never betrays its result) highlights *reso*, the Bugis ethic of diligence and hard work, reflecting resilience and determination in the Bugis struggle for sovereignty. Lastly, *pesse*, articulated in “*Pesse-é iyanaritu mapakau tau ri watakkale*” (Empathy binds humans through shared suffering), embodies compassion and social solidarity, forming the ethical basis of just and people-centered governance.

Conclusion: Overall, these five core values—*siri'*, *lempu'*, *getteng*, *reso*, and *pesse*—constitute an integrated moral framework that resonates deeply with the ideals of just leadership and cultural integrity portrayed in *Tuhfat Al-Nafis*. The study concludes that the philosophical essence of Bugis culture, as illuminated through *Tuhfat Al-Nafis*, remains a timeless source of ethical wisdom and identity for the Malay-Bugis world.

Keywords: Bugis philosophy, *Lontara*, *Tuhfat Al-Nafis*, Raja Ali Haji, *siri'*, *lempu'*, *getteng*, *reso*, *pesse*, moral values.