

**Webinar: Konsep Tauhid dan Ibadah Puasa Para Nabi Sepanjang Zaman (The Concept of *Tawhid* and the Fasting of the Prophets throughout History)
(22 April 2021)**

Muhd Nur Iman Ramli

The Islamic concept of *tawhid* refers to monotheism, or the belief that God is only one. In Arabic, *tawhid* means ‘unification’, while in Islamic terms it means affirming that Allah is the only God. *Tawhid* is the foundation of *aqidah*, which has been embedded in the hearts of mankind since the creation of the universe. The *ummah* of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the followers of previous prophets were commanded by Allah to worship Him, including by performing fasting. The commandment to fast was given to the Believers in order to train them to be steadfast, humble, and God-fearing. Although the manner of fasting differs between prophets and their *ummahs*, fasting shows the continuation of the teachings of *tawhid* from the time of Prophet Adam (PBUH) until Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

IAIS Malaysia conducted a webinar to discuss the concepts of *tawhid* and fasting throughout the history of the prophets, featuring Professor Dr Solehah Yaacob from the Department of Arabic Language and Literature at the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM). During this webinar, Professor Dr Solehah elaborated on the history of fasting among the earliest prophets, when it was done voluntarily as a symbol of redemption and to purify their souls. She also highlighted some historical facts regarding the prophets that Western writers have gotten wrong. She suggested that Muslims carry out detailed studies of the history of the prophets and their shariah. The act of fasting during Ramadan was not copied from previous prophets, but rather was a continuation of the message of *tawhid* as commanded by Allah.

**Webinar: American Journal of Islam and Society’s Symposium
on the Theory and Uses of *Maqasid al-Shari’ah*
(2 May 2021)**

Muhamad Sayuti Mansor

On 2 May 2021, the American Journal of Islam and Society (AJIS), under the auspices of the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), hosted a

virtual symposium on the topic of ‘Theory and Uses of *Maqasid al-Shari’ah*.’ Professor Dato’ Dr Mohammad Hashim Kamali, the founding CEO of IAIS Malaysia, was invited to give a keynote speech at this symposium, talking on the ‘History and Jurisprudence of the *Maqasid*: A Critical Appraisal.’ The event started with opening remarks by Dr Ovamir Anjum (University of Toledo) and Dr Shuruq Naguib (Lancaster University). In his keynote address, Professor Kamali gave a broad overview of the recent renewed interest in *maqasid al-shari’ah*, citing a growing formalism and technicality in the discipline of *usul al-fiqh* as a primary cause of this. Professor Kamali then discussed *maqasid al-shari’ah* and its development as a distinctive field vis-à-vis *usul al-fiqh*, dividing this into five topics: i) historical, ii) epistemological, iii) criteria of evaluation, iv) implementation, and v) excessive use of *maqasid*. He demonstrated the prospect for the implementation of *maqasid* and *maqasid*-based *ijtihad* in our own times by giving an interesting example from the area of Islamic finance. His captivating presentation sparked interest among participants, with a lively Q&A afterwards, lasting for almost an hour.

Webinar: Islamic Finance Talk Series: Transformasi Digital dalam Lembaga Zakat Negeri Kedah: Pengalaman dan Cabaran (The Digital Transformation of the Zakat Board of Kedah: Experiences and Challenges) (26 January 2021)

The Concept of Waqf in Agriculture (4 March 2021)

Apnizan Abdullah

An online discussion on ‘Transformasi Digital dalam Lembaga Zakat Negeri Kedah: Pengalaman dan Cabaran’ (The Digital Transformation of the *Zakat* Board of Kedah: Experiences and Challenges) was held on the IAIS TV channel and IAIS Facebook page on 26 January 2021. This programme, conducted in Bahasa Malaysia, came under the Islamic Finance Talk Series. It featured Syeikh Zakaria bin Othman, Chief Executive Officer of Lembaga Zakat Negeri Kedah (LZK, The *Zakat* Board of Kedah). The discussion focused on LZK’s experience of managing *zakat*-related matters in the state of Kedah via its new digital platform, the *Zakat* on Touch (ZOT) app. This app has improved the efficiency of *zakat* management as it allows LZK to monitor the collection and distribution of *zakat* via smartphones. This transformation through technological