



# Book Review ‘Raja Ali Haji: Leading Thinker of 19th Century Malay World’ (Malay Version)

Dr. Uqbah Iqbal<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Managing Director, Pitas Agriculture, Kampung Mempakad Darat, 89100 Pitas, Sabah, Malaysia

<b>Abstract:</b> This book contains a collection of nine research results undertaken by scholars and researchers of Malay literature. The prominence and contribution of Raja Ali Haji's authorship in various genres has been analyzed in depth from various notions and approaches. The essence of Raja Ali Haji's literary thought and aesthetics in building and strengthening the character of the ummah and the Malay nation has been revealed. This book is useful as an important reference for the heritage of Malay literature, especially for getting to know the figures and works of the past.	<b>Review Paper</b>
	<b>*Corresponding Author:</b> <i>Dr. Uqbah Iqbal</i> Managing Director, Pitas Agriculture, Kampung Mempakad Darat, 89100 Pitas, Sabah, Malaysia
	<b>How to cite this paper:</b> Uqbah Iqbal (2024). Book Review ‘Raja Ali Haji: Leading Thinker of 19th Century Malay World’ (Malay Version). <i>Middle East J Islam Stud Cult.</i> , 4(1): 9-10.
	<b>Article History:</b>   Submit: 25.01.2024     Accepted: 26.02.2024     Published: 28.02.2024
<b>Keywords:</b> Malay Literature, Raja Ali Haji Raja Haji Ahmad, Riau, 19th Century, Islam, Malay World.	
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## INTRODUCTION

Manuscripts of Classical Malay Literature are part of the masterpieces of Malay heritage which are very valuable. The various fields of knowledge contained in it really need to be restored, understood, studied, practiced and handed down to the current generation. Through the study of knowledge contained in works of correspondence and literature, readers will be able to delve into the civilization of the Malay community, especially the aspects of history, intellectuality, culture and epistemology. The production of such works is the result of the thinking and creativity of prominent Malay poets of the past. The contribution of Raja Ali Haji (1808-1873) as a famous poet in the archipelago region with a total of 12 pieces of writing and literature that he produced in various fields of knowledge cannot be denied. In an effort to appreciate and deepen the thinking of this archipelago figure, the study of his authorship and the works produced should be carried out. With such a wish, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka worked on a publication to appreciate the great contribution of the figure. The results of this study can examine and analyze the contributions of Raja Ali Haji's thoughts through the works produced to provide benefits to the audience in understanding the essence of his thoughts.

Raja Ali Haji's enthusiasm for work, accompanied by his persistence as a prominent scholar of the archipelago, should be a role model for the

generation of writers, especially the young generation who want to achieve success in the production of high-quality writing and literature. Hopefully, the results of the nine studies contained in this book will benefit efforts to preserve the heritage of Malay civilization, especially in the construction and empowerment of national, regional and international literature. In addition, the publication of this kind of book also makes a great contribution to the publication of study books in Malaysia, especially the study of the works of Nusantara scholars who are still being worked on. This book is the result of the Raja Ali Haji National Thought Seminar which was held on 10 March 2015, at the Selangor International Islamic University College (KUIS), Selangor Darul Ehsan. This manuscript contains nine results of research on Raja Ali Haji's characters and works by scholars and researchers of Malay literature. The prominence and contribution of Raja Ali Haji's authorship in various genres has been deeply explored from various notions and approaches as a socio-cultural reference material of society.

This book presents the thoughts of Raja Ali Haji through the works he produced in the middle of the 19th century. A total of nine papers were presented by the speakers in the Raja Ali Haji Thought National Seminar on 10 March 2015. Siddiq Fadzil in his paper entitled "Raja Ali Haji: His Scholarly and Authorship" talks about the various roles of Raja Ali Haji who is not only a scientist, culturalist, administrator, but also as a guide

to the king and an educator of the people. Ahmad Zaki Abdul Latiff and Fairuzah Basri presented a paper entitled "Aspects of Sufism in the Works of Raja Ali Haji". This paper tries to show about the role of Raja Ali Haji who is considered to be a writer with a Sufi spirit. In Khalif Muammar A. Harris's paper entitled "Islamic Judicial System in the Works of Raja Ali Haji", he touched on Thamarat al-Muhimmah which is a continuation of a short treatise entitled Muqaddimah fi Intizam Waza'if al-Malik. Wazzainab Ismail and Hafida Mohamed Nordin in the paper titled "Returning the Excellence of Scholars is a Challenge for the People through the Perspective of Raja Ali Haji" discussed the works and examples of Raja Ali Haji's personality as an effort to restore the excellence of scholars in the Malay region.

Arba'iyah Mohd Noor presented his paper titled "Historical Thoughts of King Ali Haji Through Tuhfat Al-Nafis, Masterpiece of the Sultanate of Johor-Riau-Lingga". The background and historical thoughts of Raja Ali Haji are examined with reference to his famous historical work Tuhfat Al-Nafis as well as Raja Ali Haji's letters to Von de Wall. Ayu Nor Azilah Mohamad's paper titled "The Role of Raja Ali Haji in Religious and Political Clashes in the Malay World" talks about the religious and political clashes that occur in this region and the role of Raja Ali Haji in dealing with it. The paper titled "Thoughts of Raja Ali Haji through Poems" by Abu Hassan Sham tries to highlight some of Raja Ali Haji's

poems which are considered to have their own special features. Tatiana A. Denisova's paper titled "19th Century Malay Statecraft through the View of Raja Ali Haji: A Study Based on the Historical Works of Tuhfat Al-Nafis" discusses not only some historical concepts, but also contains elements of Islamic statecraft and didacticism. Norfazil Ab. Hamid, Rohaini Amin and Zurina Abdullah presented a paper entitled "The Malay Language as a Vessel of Dakwah and Education through the Eyes of Raja Ali Haji". In general, the Malay language is seen as capable of being a tool in the delivery of preaching and education to the community. The conclusion is that all researchers have tried to interpret, deepen and express the thoughts of Raja Ali Haji in various aspects whether from the point of view of religion, politics, history, language and so on. Through the presentation of the paper which is still general, it is hoped that future researchers will be able to examine and deepen aspects of Raja Ali Haji's thinking to the maximum level. Indirectly, his work can further enrich the Malay intellectual treasures and further raise the dignity of the Malays as a superior civilization once upon a time.

## REFERENCE

- Noor, A. M., & Ibrahim, M. H. (Eds.). (2015). *Raja Ali haji: pemikir ulung alam Melayu abad ke-19*. Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.