

## CHAPTER IV

### THE CRITICAL OBSERVATION ABOUT CHARACTERISTICS OF HUMANS DESTRUCTIVE IN QUR'AN

#### A. The Analysis Characteristics of Destructive Humans in Qur'an

In the previous chapter, the author mentioned the verses relating to humans and their destructive behavior. Whereas in the category, the authors classify the destruction in several forms, those are: environmental damage, faith, and social morals. As for the characteristics of the destructive humans themselves, general conclusions are drawn from the stories of humans and previous peoples who did damage. Those who did destructively were like: populace Nūh, Ād, Tsamūd, Sodomites, Madyān, the Hypocrites, the Bani Israel, Pharaoh, and Qārūn. The author limits the verses studied to only those eight people or groups, because they look at the characters mentioned in the Qur'an.

It is admitted that the Qur'an in discussing stories does not tell events and events chronologically and does not explain in detail. This is a warning about the enactment of God's law and social life. The stories in the Qur'an have a reality that is believed to be trusted, including the events in them. It is part of the verses that were sent down from the omniscient God. So for those who believe, there is no other word except to take (*ibrah*) lessons from the stories and events that Allah has described in His book.<sup>1</sup>

Overall the views of Mufasssir, especially Indonesian Mufasssir regarding

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<sup>1</sup> Anshori, *Ulumul Qur'ān: Kaidah-Kaidah Memahami Firman Tuhan* (Jakarta: Rajawali, 2014), 130.

verses of human behavior that do destruction on earth are caused by the destruction of their faith until it is reflected in their actions. So it can be concluded that in general the characteristics of human destroyers of the earth as seen from the story of the previous people in Qur'an, namely:

#### 1. Unbelieving Allah and His Messenger

One of the characters or traits of humans who do destruction is that they do not believe in Allah and the message is conveyed through the Prophet's messenger. Even though Allah provides clear evidence of the existence of prophets and messengers to direct them to the right direction and the straight path. Buya HAMKA explained that Allah had sent Prophet Mūsā and Prophet Hārūn to be his viziers. They are ordered by Allah come to the people who deny the verses and warnings of God. They are referred to as Pharaoh and his leader. Fir'awn's power had an upright character of disbelief, namely rejecting the correct word if the truth disturbed his power. Even though God has determined a definite rule, that people who disbelieve, do wrong, persecute, and deny will eventually fall into destruction.<sup>2</sup>

Another example is explained, namely the populace of the Prophet Nūh, they also did this before. The exclamation of truth by God's messengers they denied. Even they deny with deeds or actions. Likewise with the people of the Prophet Hūd and the people of the Prophet Shālih, all laws will still apply to those who reject the calls of Allah and His Messenger. Hasbi ash Shiddieqy said that Allah had inflicted punishment on 'Ād, because they do destructive, by denying their Lord, disobeying their apostles, and following their leaders arrogant leaders arbitrary. The 'Ād will always receive punishment in the world from century to

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<sup>2</sup>HAMKA, *Tafsir Al-Azhar* Vol. 7, 5035.

century and receive cursings and curses of humans on the Day of Resurrection. The 'Ād have denied Allah's favors with denying Allah's verses and denying His Messenger.<sup>3</sup>

The Quraish Shihab stated in his interpretation of *al-Misbah* that the people of the Prophet Hūd were disobedient and were reluctant to accept guidance. The story concludes is that they denied it because they were stubborn, did not recognize the signs of oneness and disobeyed the apostles, especially the Prophet Hūd. They cover up the signs of His greatness and oneness, even though the evidence is presented, but they deny it.<sup>4</sup> All humans who did such destruction were destroyed in various ways. Destruction is not arbitrary, but Allah has sent prophets and messengers as a medium to provide explanations of the actual teachings, but the majority of them are disobedient, so that Allah inflicts punishment on them.<sup>5</sup>

#### 1. The Following to *Hawa Nafsu*

Those who do corruption on earth tend to have their hearts lead to lust, so that because they follow their desires, they commit chaos and corruption. They reject the apostle's teachings and continue to do destroy the earth and follow their lusts like reducing measures and scales. Quraish Shihab stated that the word **تَعَثُّوا** in ayat 36 surah al-ankabūt<sup>6</sup> suggests that due to follow the passions immediately not produce but only resulting of destruction.<sup>7</sup> A person possessed by lust can no longer distinguish between good and evil. Her heart and mind were covered with

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<sup>3</sup> Teungku Muhammad Hasbi ash-Shiddieqy, *Tafsir Al-Qur'anul Majid An-Nuur* 3, 1915.

<sup>4</sup> M. Quraish Shihab, *Tafsir Al-Misbāh: Pesan, Kesan dan Keserasian AL-Qur'an*, Vol. 6, 282.

<sup>5</sup> M. Quraish Shihab, *Tafsir Al-Misbāh: Pesan, Kesan dan Keserasian AL-Qur'an*, Vol. 9, 477

<sup>6</sup> See chapter 3, hlm 23.

<sup>7</sup> M. Quraish Shihab, *Tafsir Al-Misbāh: Pesan, Kesan dan Keserasian AL-Qur'an*, Vol. 10, 491.

lust. Everything that becomes his wish will be considered good for himself, even though it doesn't allow it or even prohibits it from a religious point of view.

Teungku Muhammad Hasbi ash-Shiddieqy provides an interpretation of if the truth is to follow lust<sup>8</sup> and follow the materialistic preferences of the polytheists, of course the heavens and the earth will be destroyed. If the Qur'an allows injustice, does not emphasize justice, then society will be in chaos. Security will be lost and what will appear is destruction. This situation was also exactly experienced by the Arabs before the arrival of Islam.<sup>9</sup> Those who follow lust also tend to think of themselves as innocent, even if they are no longer aware of doing something terrible.

The Jewish hypocrites as Buya HAMKA mentioned that they create division and enmity. They do not realize that their actions are destructive and dangerous, especially in their position. Because Islam will not be weak, but will get stronger. It is clear that their behavior very dangerous deed, was not realized by them, due to mere lust. Allah says that they are hypocrites as destroyers, but they do not realize his deeds. Analysis or stripping of the soul like this is enshrined in the Qur'an, so that we as people who are behind can take guidance, not inclining to mere lust, but holding on to faith and piety.<sup>10</sup> This is in accordance with the Qur'an said:

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<sup>8</sup> See QS. al-Mu'minūn [23]: 71.

<sup>9</sup> Teungku Muhammad Hasbi ash-Shiddieqy, *Tafsir Al-Qur'anul Majid An-Nuur*, Jilid 3, 2758.

<sup>10</sup> HAMKA, *Tafsir Al-Azhar* Volume 1, 130.

وَلَوْ أَتَّبَعَ الْحَقُّ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ لَفَسَدَتِ السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ وَمَنْ فِيهِنَّ بَلْ أَتَيْنَاهُمْ بِذِكْرِهِمْ

فَهُمْ عَنْ ذِكْرِهِمْ مُعْرِضُونَ (٧١)

*And if the truth had been in accordance with their desires, verily, the heavens and the earth, and whosoever is therein would have been corrupted! Nay, We have brought them their reminder, but they turn away from their reminder.*<sup>11</sup> QS. Al-Mu'minun [23]: 71.

This verse states *If al-Haqq*, namely Allah or the truth, *obeyed their lusts* which were filled with falsehood, self-determination, ignoring others, and hating the truth, *the sky would be destroyed and the earth and everything in it*. Because corruption, falsehood and evil will be rampant, so there will be destruction. The sentence that follows explains the arguments against them to believe in the Qur'an. There is in the sentence *We have brought them a warning* that is the holy book of the Qur'an, *but they turn away against their warning they are very reluctant to accept it*.<sup>12</sup>

The word الحق of *al-Haqq* in the above verse means "Allah SWT". Therefore, the meaning of this verse is that if Allah's decrees were to follow the desires and passions of the unbelievers, of course the rules in the heavens and on earth and other creatures would not work correctly and would even become chaotic. According to the mufassir Thabâthâbai, humans are a natural reality whose form is related to the whole world. The goal of human attainment is happiness, and Allah has set a path for mankind to pursue that happiness. That path is through faith and charity which actually comes from religion. Meanwhile, *sunnatul hayât*, which is related to the law

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<sup>11</sup> Ministry of Islamic Affairs Endowments Da'wah and Guidance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, *The Noble Qur'an: English Translation of The Meanings and Commentary*, 461.

<sup>12</sup> M.Quraish Shihab, *Tafsir Al-Misbah: Pesan Kesan, dan Keserasian Al-Qur'an* jilid 8, 391.

of Allah or human nature, is also related to religion. So if humans follow their lusts, it will change parts of the universe from their current state, the earth become chaotic, disorganized, and experience decay.

In simple terms, it can be said that human life as an individual and society will fall apart if each the human follows his lusts and desires. This reveals that the amount of destruction that occurs on this earth is due to them being entirely indulged by their lusts. So that lust controls them, not themselves that controls lust. Sayyid Qutb comments in this verse that the Arabs were not known before the arrival of Islam. Then they obeyed the guidelines contained in the Qur'an so that their names were always mentioned in the ears for centuries when they clung to these guidelines. On the other hand, people will disappear and even be harassed in the centuries afterward when they ignore the direction of the Qur'an.<sup>13</sup> The word *al-Haqq* also means something permanent and always correct. Humans should abandon the lust, because truth is not follow lustful. If humans following lust then it will have the effect of destruction.<sup>14</sup>

## 2. Arrogant

An arrogant attitude has indications such as; rejecting the truth, underestimating the abilities of others, *negative thinking*, deceiving themselves, and they are also good at lying, mentioning what they do not have, even scapegoating others for their own mistakes and think that what they do is the best. In general, all bad behavior is triggered by an arrogance, which they unconsciously seem to maintain their self-esteem. In personal psychology, an arrogant person is also called a narcissistic person. Arrogant considered as a disease, because the

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<sup>13</sup> M.Quraish Shihab, *Tafsir Al-Misbah: Pesan Kesan, dan Keserasian Al-Qur'an* jilid 8, 394.

<sup>14</sup> Wahbah Musthāfa az-Zuhailī, "Tafsir Wasith li az-Zuhailī" (Damascus: Dār al-Fikr, 1422),

perpetrators are not aware of the shortcomings and forced himself to *self-esteem*.

Narcissistic personality disorder is generally seen when a person is in their teens or early into adulthood. Among the characteristics, namely; always expecting special treatment, thought that many people were jealous of him, and behaved arrogantly. Those with narcissistic personalities appear to have normal self-confidence like most. But it was different, because people who had normal self-confidence would not act arrogantly. In addition, narcissists will be prone to engage in impulsive behavior.<sup>15</sup>

Buya HAMKA explained that if someone feels smarter and that other people are not as good, this causes the previous people to not believe and do destruction and humiliation. They feel that their clothes are dirty when they sit with people who have first trusted Nūh. whereas for the Jews (*yahudi*) their intelligence in matters of religion was no longer to be practiced, but to be boasted.<sup>16</sup> Apart from the Jews there was also a tyrannical ruler from Egypt, namely Pharaoh (Fir'aun). He belongs to called destroyer. Qur'an said إِنَّهُ كَانَ مِنَ الْمُفْسِدِينَ hinting that Pharaoh, including the destroyer populace.

The journey of the story of Pharaoh which is mentioned in the Qur'an, there are many Pharaoh, namely: First, in the form of arrogance, this trait gave to express various evils. Second, divide the integrity of society in order to strengthen the integrity of society. Third, weaken and oppress a community of groups, even kill

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<sup>15</sup>Kevin Adrian, "Perbedaan Perilaku Narsis dengan Kepribadian Narsistik" dalam artikel Alodokter, Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, terbit 22 Februari 2018.

<sup>16</sup> HAMKA, *Tafsir Al-Azhar* Jilid 1, 130.

boys and humiliate women.<sup>17</sup> Apart from that, the Qur'an also mentions the story of Qārūn, he has transcended the limit in arrogance and contempt for Banī Isrā'īl. According to Teungku Muhammad Hasbi ash-Shiddieqy Qārūn showed his arrogance and tyranny, when a populace of Bani Isrā'īl advised him not to be overjoyed. Because most of the reasons a person is negligent is because he loves the treasures of the world too much.<sup>18</sup>

#### 1. The Exceeding of Boundaries

To doing vile and transgressing is included in an act that destroys the order of life. The people of Sodom or the populace of the Lūth became one of the examples of people who God destroyed because of their evil attitudes. Their actions, namely men intercourse with other men or homosexuals, have gone beyond the limit. The sentence *بَلْ أَنْتُمْ قَوْمٌ عَادُونَ* Prophet Lūth advising his populace, even though previously he also told his people (*sodom*) to believe, but they defied and unbelieving. They are doing heinous and destruction that has never been done by anyone before.<sup>19</sup>

The Qur'an presents the story of the Tsamūd people as a lesson for mankind. Another verse about the Tsamūd<sup>20</sup> states that Allah has brought to the Thamūd a camel as a light. But they do injustice to him. Even though a country will be destroyed if its inhabitants commit injustice and no longer want to hold on to the religion of Allah. So that epidemics or infectious disease will destroy its inhabitants.

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<sup>17</sup> M. Quraish Shihab, *Tafsir Al-Misbāh: Pesan, Kesan dan Keserasian AL-Qur'an*, Vol. 10, 310.

<sup>18</sup> Teungku Muhammad Hasbi ash-Shiddieqy, *Tafsir Al-Qur'anul Majid An-Nuur*, Vol. 4, 3093- 3094.

<sup>19</sup> Teungku Muhammad Hasbi ash-Shiddieqy, *Tafsir Al-Qur'anul Majid An-Nuur*, Vol. 3, 2965.

<sup>20</sup> See QS aL-Isra [17]: 59



Destruction on the country when the values of truth no longer heeded, and justice no longer upheld high was accustomed. Then the rulers have done what they want, forgetting that the highest power is the power of Allah. So if all the deeds of wrong doing and transgressing these are always done on earth, people will lose their peace and sense of security.<sup>21</sup>

## **B. The Connection between Physical Destruction and Internal Destruction**

After the author discusses the analysis of human characteristics according of *mufasssir*, especially commentators of Indonesia. This section will mention regarding the correlation between physical and non-physical destruction that is in humans. However, before that the author will mention the destruction issues, especially those in the State of Indonesia. Earth is a place of residence for humans, so humans should maintain and prosper it. Humans who realize themselves as caliphs on earth will try to *benefit* both their fellow humans and their natural surroundings. On the other hand, a greedy human will destroy of the earth for the sake of personal gain and lust. Among the destruction that occurred in the State of Indonesia, namely:

### **1. Issues of Destruction in the Modern Era**

#### **a. Destruction of Environmental**

The State of Indonesia is one of the countries that has extraordinary natural wealth. Starting from the diversity of flora - fauna, meratus, to fertile soil. However, all of these natural resources will suffer destruction, if humans are selfish and completely exploit these natural resources. One of

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<sup>21</sup> HAMKA, *Tafsir Al-Azhar* Volume 6, 4078-4080.

the environmental destruction that occurs is flooding. Floods are events that occur when excessive flow submerges land. Flooding is caused by the volume of water in a body, like a river or lake that overflows from a dam so that water comes out of it. The occurrence of flooding is very fast, this is because the rain that occurs is very heavy, natural things or human activities cause flooding. Floods caused by human such as; deforestation, inadequate farming, urban expansion and other use changes are exacerbate the problem of flooding. Also, slum housing and the large number of people who do not dispose of garbage in its place can also increase flooding and obstruct water flow.<sup>22</sup>

The issue of forests is a very ironic thing, because forests are an important, but the current era of globalization has many impacts on the natural environment. According to FAO data from 44 countries with 80% of the world's forest area, Indonesia's forests are experiencing the fastest destruction compared to other countries. Meanwhile data from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Indonesia shows that the total area of Indonesia's remaining forests is currently in the amount of 124 million hectares and since 2010-2015, Indonesia was able to rank the second highest as a country that lost its forest land reaching 648,000 hectares each year.<sup>23</sup>

Caused of environmental destruction can occur if humans do not pay attention to ignore environmental factors and continue to destructive without any preservation or maintenance measures. This will not only have an impact

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<sup>22</sup> Syamsidar Sutan Malim Polawan Fajar Alam, *Memahami Bencana Banjir dan Longsor* (Samarinda: Pustaka Horizon, 2019), 81.

<sup>23</sup> Yulia Hafidzah, "Membangun Fiqh Lingkungan untuk Pelestarian Kosmos" dalam *academi a.edu* January, maret 2021 hlm. 1.

on damage on land but also in ocean or water areas. River pollution is a form of environmental destruction. A polluted river is most likely caused by humans littering or littering so that it has a negative impact on the area waters. One real example is the pollution of the Citarum River in West Java. Disposal of liquid waste into the Citarum River Basin is the main cause of this pollution. Reporting from *Kompas.com*, 86 companies dispose of liquid waste in the Citarum watershed. 32 companies of which dispose of waste water directly into Citarum. The majority of these companies are engaged in the textile, paper and food sectors. This condition causes a process of decay and blackening of the river water. Even though polluted rivers are very disturbing for comfort and health.<sup>24</sup>

Other forms of environmental degradation include increased greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions that result from smoke on earth can have a greenhouse effect. Technology improvement in land transportation sector is very rapid in Indonesia. This is because the activities carried out by individuals to achieve their needs. But this situation has had many negative impacts on the environment. These gases include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). The release of carbon dioxide emissions is due to an increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide gas. The rising temperature of the earth which can cause climate change and rising sea levels due to the increasing greenhouse effect and global warming. Coupled with air pollution that occurs anywhere due to vehicle fumes,

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<sup>24</sup>Vanya Karunia Putri “Contoh Kerusakan Lingkungan Akibat Ulah Manusia” dalam [kompas.com/skola/read/2021/03/17/143054269/contoh-kerusakan-lingkungan-akibat-ulah-manusia](https://kompas.com/skola/read/2021/03/17/143054269/contoh-kerusakan-lingkungan-akibat-ulah-manusia) page=all#page2, Rabu 17 Maret 2021.

factory fumes and burning garbage.<sup>25</sup>

Such are some form of environmental destruction is physical in Indonesia . The events that occur should require us to realize that as caliphs on earth, we always introspect our actions, whether they already contain *maslahah* or are otherwise contain destructive.

#### b. Destruction of Social Moral

As it is well known that the meaning of social moral destruction here is the action of a person who destroys so that it harms on others. One of the apparent forms of social moral destruction is corruption. The corruption incident is a disaster for society, not only weakens democratic values, ethical values and justice and the rule of law, violates human rights, destroys economic order and development and erodes the quality of life by fostering other organized crime, including economic crime and money laundering that threatens the survival of the nation.

The high number of corruption cases in Indonesia places Indonesia in 89th place out of 1180 countries and 4th in Southeast Asia with 38 points in the world corruption perception index in 2018. Based on records from ICW (Indonesia Corruption Watch) in the last 5 years, there are 2062 prosecution of corruption cases in Indonesia that has been handled by the Prosecutor's Office (59.5%), the Police (32.4%), and the KPK (8.1%). The KPK also has a specific specification that corruption causes state losses with an estimate of more than one billion rupiah.<sup>26</sup> Corruption is certainly an action that is very

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<sup>25</sup> Mutiara Septiani, "Prediksi Tingkat Emisi Gas Rumah Kaca pada Ruas Jalan Akses Menuju Jalan Soekarno Hatta Akibat Beroperasinya Jembatan Musi V" Skripsi Program Studi Teknik Sipil Fakultas Teknik, Universitas Sriwijaya, 2020.

<sup>26</sup> Adianto Rahmanul, "Peran KPK dalam menangani Kasus Korupsi di Indonesia" dalam

detrimental to others, even for the nation.

## 2. Relevance between Physical (natural) and Non-Physical (in humans) Destruction.

In the last discussion, it has been explained at length about the characteristics of humans destructive the earth in the Qur'an. The author focuses on the behavior of the Hypocrites, the Nūh, the Ād, the Madyān, the Tsamud, the Sodom, the Kings (during Queen Balqis era), the Children of Israel, Qarun, and Pharaoh. The author also classifies the forms of damage, namely environmental damage, faith, and social morals. From the research results, it was found that the characteristics of those who did damage in general were; denied Allah and His Messenger, arrogant, transgressed, and inclined towards lust.

In the previous explanation, the characteristics of earth destroyers include physical and non-physical forms of destruction. The meaning of the word destruction *hissi* here is the direct impact of human actions. This means environmental destruction such as; deforestation, flooding, global warming and others. Meanwhile, the meaning of non-physical destructive is in the form of infidels, hypocrites, arrogance and others. From the verses mentioned, the Qur'an describes a lot of those who do damage because they do not believe in Allah, are hypocritical, arrogant. Thus we can see the correlation between physical and non-physical damage, namely:

- a. Destruction that is physical in nature is essentially a non-physical result or comes from human mental. The argument is that the verses identified as

environmental destruction are also specifically stated as a result of human behavior.

- b. If the destruction to the faith is considered as a result of physical destruction, it should not be measured whether a person's faith is true or not, but should be measured by his behavior, beneficial or destructive, which becomes a reflection of a person's mental and creed.

