

**SPIRITUAL TEACHING IN THE NOVEL *KHOTBAH DI ATAS  
BUKIT* (SERMON ON THE HILL)  
(Analytical Study)**



**THESIS**

**Submitted to Ushuluddin Faculty in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
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## MOTTO

*Bismillāhirrahmānirrahīm*

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ

وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَلَوْ ءَامَنَ أَهْلُ الْكِتَابِ لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُمْ مِنْهُمْ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ

وَأَكْثَرُهُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ ﴿١١٠﴾

*“You [true believers In Islamic Monotheism and real followers of Prophet Muhammad and his Sunnah (legal ways, etc.)] are the best of peoples ever raised up for mankind; you enjoin al-Ma’rūf (i.e. Islamic Monotheism and all that Islām has ordained) and forbid al-Munkar (polytheism, disbelief and all that Islām has forbidden), and you believe in Allāh, and had the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians) believed, it would have been better for them; among them are some who have faith, but most of them are al-Fāsiqūn (disobedient to Allāh - and rebellious against Allāh ’s command).” [QS. Ali ‘Imrān (3): 110]*

## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to:

- My mom; Siti Mahmudah, my dad; Moch. Muslih (alm), my two sisters; Maliatur Rohmah (almh) and Nurul Hidayati, and my brother; Harisul Mu'minin.
- Tasawuf and Psychotherapy Department Ushuluddin Faculty State Institute for Islamic Studies (IAIN) Walisongo Semarang

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Thanks for my teachers and my lecturers in university for the great teaching. I also would like to thank to the big family of my friends from FUPK Depag (TP and TH) who supported me to hold on and keep my spirit in finishing this paper. Thanks for lovely friendship.

Last but not least, thanks to all of my friends in RGM One FM. Being with you all is an unforgettable adventure. And also thanks for Arifin, my friend in Jakarta; because of you have helped get the novel *Khotbah di Atas Bukit* from UIN Syarif Hidayatullah's library.

Hopefully, all of the support and kindness that has been given to the writer of the various parties to get a reply doubled reward from *Allāh*. Finally, the presence hopefully this work can be useful and benefits and obtain the pleasure of *Allāh Subhānahu wa Ta'ālā. Āmīn...*

Semarang, May 30, 2014

The Writer

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NIM. 094411052

## English Transliteration System International Version<sup>1</sup>

### Consonants:

Arabic	Roman
ب	B
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ

Arabic	Roman
ع	'
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
و	w
هـ	h
ء	'
ي	y

---

<sup>1</sup> Tim Penyusun Skripsi, *Pedoman Penulisan Skripsi Fakultas Ushuluddin* (Semarang: Fakultas Ushuluddin IAIN Walisongo, 2013), p. 142-144

**Translation Table : Vowels and Diphthong**

Arabic	Roman
اَ, ع, ي	a
و	u
ي	i
اَ, ع, ي	ā
و	ū
ي	ī

Arabic	Roman
اَ, ع, ي	an
و	un
ي	in
و	aw
ي	ay
و	uww, ū (in final position)
ي	iyy, ī (in final position)

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis tries to explain about the discourse of spirituality in the Sufi literature perspective by examining *Khotbah di Atas Bukit* written by Kuntowijoyo. The texts in the novel become the object of study. Novel *Khotbah di Atas Bukit* can not be separated from the discourse of modernity, the socio-political reaction, as well as the criticism of reality (people with social, nature, God, and with self) in 1970 to 1980 period. In addition, *Khotbah di Atas Bukit* gives new discourse presents the transcendent or mystical themes in Indonesian Sufi literature.

This research uses semiotics approach (heuristic and hermeneutic readings). That is an attempt to describe the symptoms or signs and events what looked like as what has been described in the text and then researcher interpret the novel where he makes and arranges it systematically or comprehensively. Through this method, the researcher tried to describe spiritual teachings through dialogues conducted the main character in novel *Khotbah di Atas Bukit* as a whole.

The researcher finds that the socio-historical background of novel *Khotbah di Atas Bukit* is the author attempts to explore experimental themes with the spirit of liberation. In its relation with modernity, the novel *Khotbah di Atas Bukit* tries to give a reaction, response, and resistance to the discourse of modernism in Indonesia during 1970 to 1980 period. The conflicts that arise within it are the tension between the individual and his social environment, nature, God, particularly among individuals with his self in finding the meaning of life. Theologically, Sufi literature which Kuntowijoyo calls it prophetic literature is based on *Qur'ān* in *Surah Ali 'Imrān* (3): 110. In being the best people (The Chosen People), humans must engage in activism of history. This premise is also an ethical foundation for the author's philosophy.

Technically, spiritual teachings revealed through dialogues that underlie the problems of novel *Khotbah di Atas Bukit* can be divided into four categories: First, the journey to go into seclusion in finding meaning life is human effort to purify and cleanse the soul from being dependence to worldly pleasure. This trend shows different attitude of human life in general. This action—doing seclusion—due to ignore the spiritual life in the midst of modernity; Second, in an effort to affirm and understand self, spiritual teacher were able to make the man free from the narrow limits of material pleasures and to provide guidance to recognize the reality on spiritual life. Without the guidance and encouragement of teachers, the one who seeks self knowledge may fall into huge lost. Third, self-actualization is the highest effort in using all talent and potential include accomplishment of capacity and quality which human being has. Self-actualization is a process, not the end result of fulfillment of human needs; and fourth, self-awareness is the result of processing intellectuality and morality in a balanced way. With self-awareness, humans are able to know him self and God.

Keywords: spiritual teaching, modernity, semiotics, Sufi literature