

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

My name is Ayatullah Humaeni. This name was given by my father because I was born at the same time as the revolution of Iran led by Ayatullah Rukhullah Khomeini in 1979. I was born in Barugbug, Ciomas, Padarincang, Serang, Banten on March 25th 1979. I am the fourth son of five sisters and one brother. Four of my sisters have got married, my brother studies in the State Institute for Islamic Studies "Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin" Banten majoring in the English Education Program and my little sister still studies in senior high school.

During my youth, I studied and completed the Qur'an with my father and my mother at home every night. So, before I was 7 years old, I could read the Qur'an fluently. Moreover, from 7 years old until 12 years old, I also studied general sciences in Elementary School from 07.00 a.m. till 12.00 a.m. In addition, I studied religious sciences such as *fiqh*, *tajwid*, *akhlak* etc., in the Islamic traditional school or *Madrasah Ibtidaiyah* from 13.00 p.m. till 17.00 p.m.

After graduating from Elementary School in 1992, I continued to study in *Madrasah Tsanawiyah* (Junior High School) in my hometown until 1995, and after that I continued to study in Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 2 Serang (Senior High School) majoring in the Science program until 1998.

After graduating from Senior High School, I did not continue to study at University immediately. The headmaster of the Elementary School of Ciomas asked me to teach there because of a lack of teachers. There, I had to teach all subjects. I taught there until 2000.

In 2000 I continued to study in the State Institute for Islamic Studies "Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin" Banten majoring in the English Education Program until 2004 and got awarded the highest grade graduation.

When I was in the third semester, I began teaching on an English Course in Serang until 2005. I was also active in some organizations both on and outside the campus. After graduating from University, I taught in some Senior High Schools in Serang in the mornings, and taught English on a private English course at night. I once worked for the World Health Organization as a translator in the Polio programme, conducted in Banten for 6 months in 2005 and also assisted Dr Daromir, a lecturer from America, who was conducting research in Banten in 2005.

In 2006, my university gave me the opportunity to be a civil servant as a lecturer. Fortunately, after getting selected and competing with 78 candidates from many universities, I and one of the candidates who had graduated from Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (UPI) Bandung, passed the selection. And I began working at the University in July 2006. I taught English, especially English Structure.

One year after teaching at the University, I got information from one of my colleagues who once studied at Leiden University on the MA and Phd. Programmes, that there was an opportunity to study for MA Islamic Studies at Leiden University. At first, I did not dare to take this programme, because even though I had graduated from the State Institute for Islamic Studies, my knowledge of Islamic studies was very superficial. However, all of my friends and my rector encouraged me to take this programme. After considering for 1 month, I finally decided to take this programme. There were various reasons why I finally decided to take this programme. Firstly, I was interested in Mufti Ali, one of my colleagues who had graduated from Leiden University, who had good

vision and a high level of knowledge. He always gave me encouragement to study abroad. Secondly, studying abroad had been my dream since I studied in Elementary School, so when the opportunity came to me, I did not want to miss it. Thirdly, besides wanting to study Islamic studies, I wanted to improve my English as well.

Finally, my dream came true. Now, I am studying at Leiden University, majoring in MA Islamic Studies. For my thesis, I will write about "*THE PHENOMENON OF MAGIC IN BANTEN SOCIETY*". Here in Leiden I receive many things, not only English and Islamic knowledge, but also teaching and learning methods practised by all of my lecturers. So as long as I study here, I am focusing not just on the academic subjects, but also on teaching methods

In the future, when I graduate from this university, I will return to the State Institute for Islamic Studies "Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin" Banten to teach there and transfer all the knowledge which I have learned from Leiden University