

Luqman's Advice to his Son in the Quran: A Beacon for Preachers in Facing Modern Challenges

Mohammad Ishaque Husain, Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed Al-Haddar, Mohammed Abdulaziz Eltigani, Hussain Ali Abdullah Al-Thalaya, Mostafa Hassan Mohamed El Khayat

Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Malaysia

Corresponding Author Email: ishaquehusain@unisza.edu.my

To Link this Article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARBSS/v14-i12/24330> DOI:10.6007/IJARBSS/v14-i12/24330

Published Date: 24 December 2024

Abstract

This study highlights the advice of Luqman the Wise to his son, as mentioned in the Quran, presenting it as an enduring Quranic model that reflects divine wisdom and offers valuable guidance for preachers in addressing the challenges of the modern age. The research is based on the premise that Luqman's advice, with its balanced approach that integrates faith, ethics, and practical guidance, continues to inspire preachers in tackling contemporary issues with awareness and effectiveness. The study adopts an interpretive and analytical methodology to examine the verses in Surah Luqman (*Quran, Surah 31, verse 12–19*), exploring their meanings and connecting them to modern preaching challenges. The research emphasizes core values such as monotheism, as seen in the verse: "*O my son, do not associate others with Allah*" (*Quran, Surah 31, Verse 12*), humility in the verse: "*And do not turn your face away from people in arrogance*" (*Luqman: 18*), and the importance of enjoining good and forbidding evil as stated in the verse: "*O my son, establish prayer, enjoin what is right, and forbid what is wrong*" (*Quran, Surah 31, verse 17*). The study aims to derive educational and preaching principles from Luqman's advice and demonstrate how they can be employed in the field of Islamic preaching to address challenges such as the erosion of moral values, the spread of extremism, and the negative influence of technology and cultural openness on youth. Additionally, it explores practical lessons that can be drawn to develop preaching methodologies that are relevant to contemporary contexts while preserving Islamic principles. The study concludes that Luqman's advice represents a comprehensive model that can help preachers achieve a balance between adhering to Islamic values and adapting to modern developments. It asserts that the Quranic wisdom embodied in these pieces of advice can provide practical and effective solutions to current challenges, making it a timeless source of inspiration for preachers and Islamic communities.

Keywords: Luqman's Advice, Islamic Preaching, Modern Challenges

Introduction

Amid the rapid transformations and increasing challenges of our modern era, there emerges an urgent need to return to authentic Islamic sources, rich with timeless wisdom and enduring values. With the rise of ethical and social dilemmas and the psychological pressures faced by individuals and societies, it has become crucial to draw lessons and insights from the experiences of the righteous predecessors endowed by Allah with wisdom and discernment. Luqman's advice, immortalized in the Quran, stands as a unique model of guidance and counsel. Allah says: *"And We certainly gave Luqman wisdom [and said] 'Be grateful to Allah.' And whoever is grateful is grateful for the benefit of himself"* (Quran, Surah 31, Verse 12). This highlights that Luqman's counsel is not merely the product of human experience but a divine inspiration that reflects profound wisdom and universal benefit.

The advice Luqman gave to his son is not limited to familial guidance but represents a comprehensive life framework that preachers and educators can draw upon in every time and place (Khoirul, 2023). It addresses fundamental aspects such as monotheism, ethics, kindness to parents, adherence to prayer, enjoining good, forbidding evil, humility, and patience in facing hardships (Latiano & Wiyani, 2024). These pieces of advice serve as a beacon for preachers seeking to guide people toward a balanced life rooted in sound faith and virtuous morals.

In the Sunnah, there is consistent emphasis on the importance of wisdom in preaching. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: *"I was sent to perfect noble character"* (Musnad Ahmad, Hadith No. 8595). This prophetic statement underscores that the Islamic message is fundamentally rooted in morality, aligning with Luqman's advice, which resonates with lofty educational and ethical values. Preachers in the modern era can utilize this Quranic heritage to address societal issues, combat extremism, guide youth toward constructive values, and promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence (Riaz et al., 2023).

In today's reality, the Islamic world faces major challenges, including intellectual extremism, moral decay, and the disintegration of family and social bonds. For instance, some Muslim communities struggle to reconcile the demands of modernity with authentic Islamic values. Here, Luqman's advice offers a practical solution, demonstrating how faith and action, humility and ambition, and patience and hope can be harmoniously integrated.

One of the most compelling contemporary examples reflecting the relevance of Luqman's advice is the experience of communities that have adopted tolerance and cooperation as the foundation of their social relationships (Apriadi, 2023). Societies that prioritize ethical principles in their educational systems have achieved higher levels of stability and prosperity. Conversely, those that neglect moral values face numerous issues, such as domestic violence and extremism.

Today's preachers confront challenges distinct from those faced by the righteous predecessors. Technological advancements, cultural openness, and the proliferation of social media have made it easier to spread misinformation and erroneous ideas (Sopiyan et al., 2024). In this context, Luqman's advice serves as an inspiration for preachers to deliver their messages in a way that blends authenticity with modernity. For example, digital content

based on these timeless pieces of advice can effectively engage youth by appealing to their interests and concerns.

Luqman's wisdom remains an eternal model of guidance and instruction that adapts to the challenges of every era. Activating these pieces of advice in the lives of individuals and communities can help build a balanced generation capable of facing life's complexities with steady hearts and thoughtful minds. Thus, drawing inspiration from Luqman's wisdom becomes a religious and moral obligation for every preacher entrusted with the responsibility of Islamic guidance in today's world.

Problem Statement

In the face of the complexities of modern life and the growing challenges confronting Muslim societies, a critical question arises: can the Islamic framework provide practical solutions to contemporary problems? Islamic da'wah, as the primary vehicle for spreading Islamic values and noble ethics, today faces unprecedented intellectual, social, and cultural challenges (Sultana & Bukhari, 2021). These include the rise of atheism, intellectual deviations, and the weakening of Islamic identity under the influence of cultural globalization. Moreover, according to Mohiuddin (2023), the rapid media and digital openness have made societies vulnerable to external influences that conflict with Islamic values, highlighting the need for da'wah tools rooted in enduring wisdom and proven experiences.

Here lies the importance of turning to Quranic texts and benefiting from the models presented by the Quran in guiding individuals and societies. Among these rich examples are the pieces of advice Luqman gave to his son, which the Quran presents as a model of divine guidance in education and instruction. Allah says: *"And We certainly gave Luqman wisdom [and said], 'Be grateful to Allah'"* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 12). This verse raises questions about the relevance of these pieces of advice in addressing modern challenges and how preachers can use them to achieve the objectives of Islamic da'wah.

Luqman's advice focuses on pivotal issues such as monotheism, gratitude, kindness to parents, justice, humility, benevolence, and patience. These are universal values characterized by timelessness and comprehensiveness. However, the question arises: how can these values be activated in our contemporary reality, where challenges and circumstances differ from Luqman's era? Do Luqman's pieces of advice still meet the needs of the modern era? And how can preachers translate them into practical programs and da'wah methods capable of addressing people's hearts and minds?

Additionally, the problem relates to how preachers can harness these pieces of advice to address major social issues such as extremism, moral decay, family disintegration, weakened social bonds, and the absence of social justice. Can Luqman's advice contribute to rebuilding an Islamic personality capable of addressing these crises? And how can these pieces of advice serve as a practical framework that enhances individuals' awareness and motivates them to act positively within their communities?

In this context, this research gains significance by offering an in-depth analytical study of the relevance of Luqman's advice to our contemporary reality, focusing on how it can be used as a powerful tool for preachers to tackle intellectual and social challenges. Exploring this issue

provides an opportunity to better understand the role of Islamic heritage in delivering sustainable solutions to current problems. It also contributes to strengthening the role of Islamic da'wah as an effective means for positive change and building stable and strong societies.

Research Methodology

To explore the subject of Luqman's advice to his son in the Quran, this study adopts a rigorous scientific methodology that combines analyzing Quranic texts with addressing modern da'wah contexts. The methodology employed is qualitative and thematic, supported by deductive and inductive research methods (Azungah, 2018). The study examines and analyzes the Quranic verses concerning Luqman's advice and extracts the lessons embedded within them, linking these lessons to the challenges faced by modern-day preachers.

The analytical method is utilized to understand the Quranic texts in Surah Luqman (verses 12–19). This analysis draws on thematic exegesis by consulting classical and contemporary tafsir sources to comprehend the overall context of the verses and derive da'wah-related meanings (Braun & Clarke, 2012).

This approach facilitates identifying the educational and ethical values in Luqman's advice and exploring how preachers can utilize these lessons to address contemporary issues. These issues include the influence of technology and cultural openness on youth, moral decline in societies, and intellectual extremism.

Through deductive reasoning, practical lessons are derived for preachers based on Luqman's advice. For instance, the emphasis on establishing monotheism as the foundation of individual upbringing, as highlighted in the verse: *"O my son, do not associate partners with Allah"* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 13). Similarly, the importance of humility and virtuous conduct is drawn from the verse: *"And do not turn your cheek [in arrogance] away from people"* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 18).

This research aims to provide a comprehensive and practical understanding of Luqman's advice, presenting it as a model that can be effectively utilized in da'wah efforts. The study thus offers a holistic vision to assist preachers in addressing modern challenges with insight and effectiveness.

Results and Discussion

The dialogue between Luqman the Wise and his son, as documented in the Quran in Surah Luqman, represents a unique model of educational and da'wah-oriented guidance. It exemplifies a wise approach to offering advice that harmonizes rationality and emotion. This dialogue is not merely an ethical and spiritual lesson; it extends to serve as a comprehensive model applicable in education and da'wah, particularly in addressing the growing challenges of the modern era (Latiano & Wiyani, 2024).

In this light, the research seeks to explore Luqman's advice as a reference framework that enhances our understanding of the role preachers can play in conveying Islamic values in innovative and effective ways. The advice, which addresses fundamental issues such as monotheism, ethics, and respect for human relationships, provides lessons applicable to

contemporary challenges, such as family disintegration, the spread of violence, and the decline of moral values in societies.

Using the analytical methodology adopted in this study, these pieces of advice have been deconstructed and linked to modern da'wah contexts, allowing for deep meanings to be extracted that benefit preachers in addressing the complexities of today's world. For instance, Luqman's advice in the verse: *"And enjoin what is right, forbid what is wrong, and be patient over what befalls you"* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 17) captures the essence of da'wah work and underscores the necessity of patience as a core element in overcoming challenges that preachers may encounter.

Additionally, this dialogue serves as a model for effective human communication, combining theoretical teaching with practical application. Luqman's gentle approach to offering advice, supported by practical examples, equips preachers with tools to engage audiences more effectively, especially amid the cultural and social challenges posed by globalization and modern technology.

The study also highlights the moral dimensions of Luqman's advice, which represent a comprehensive call for balanced individual and social behavior (Katutu & Usman, 2015). The advice emphasizing humility and respect, as reflected in the verse: *"And do not turn your cheek [in arrogance] away from people, and do not walk upon the earth exultantly"* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 18), provides direct solutions to manifestations of arrogance and pride that weaken human relationships.

In today's context, applying Luqman's advice is evident in numerous real-life examples where preachers can utilize it to promote Islamic values in societies facing increasing cultural and intellectual pressures. For instance, our societies are influenced by social media platforms that often propagate superficial values. Here, preachers can adopt Luqman's wise approach to offering constructive and positive advice that reshapes individuals' moral priorities.

This discussion aims to provide a comprehensive and practical perspective for preachers, enabling them to deliver their message more effectively and impactfully. By drawing inspiration from Luqman's advice, a holistic da'wah framework can be developed to help address the modern era's challenges with wisdom and awareness, reinforcing da'wah's role in building stable and balanced Islamic societies.

Luqman the Wise: A Tale of Wisdom and Devotion

Luqman the Wise, a name mentioned in the Quran and associated with wisdom and righteous guidance, stands as an eternal symbol of divine wisdom and human virtues. According to Maulana (2023), Luqman's full name is Luqman Ibn Anqa' bin Sadun, there are also those who say his name is Ibnu Ba'ur bin Nahir bin Aazir. According to Qurthubi, he was Luqman bin 'Aura bin Nahur bin Tarikh. Meanwhile, Tarikh is Azar, Ibrahim's father. That is Luqman's nasab according to Muhammad bin Ishaq. According to Wahab, he was the son of Ayyub's sister. Dr. Abdullah al-Ghamidi believes that Luqman lived before the time of the Prophet David, then lived during his time. Said Ibnul Musayyad said, "he comes from Sudan, Egypt" He was given the gift of wisdom by Allah SWT, but not prophethood.

Although there is debate about whether Luqman was a prophet, the dominant view among scholars and commentators, such as Imam Al-Qurtubi and Al-Tabari, is that he was not a prophet but a righteous servant and one of Allah's saints endowed with wisdom (Maulana, 2023). Allah states in the Quran: *“And We had certainly given Luqman wisdom and said, ‘Be grateful to Allah’”* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 12), highlighting the esteemed status Allah bestowed upon him.

Luqman was the father of a son named Tharan, though other names, such as Musikam or An'am, are also mentioned in different accounts. Despite his wife and son initially being distant from faith, his persistent advice and gentle wisdom eventually guided them to belief, demonstrating the transformative power of wise words and sincere counsel.

Luqman was distinguished by exceptional traits reflected in his actions and words. He was devout and humble, embodying wisdom in every aspect of his life. His words were always carefully measured, emanating from an inspired heart and a soul illuminated by divine wisdom. As described by Al-Qurtubi and Al-Tabari, Luqman was an extraordinary figure whose life was a continuous lesson in faith and righteous deeds (Maulana, 2023).

The story of Luqman the Wise is not merely a tale of a man who lived in a bygone era but a beacon that inspires generations. His life and wisdom impart invaluable lessons, helping us build ourselves and our communities on the foundations of wisdom and devotion. They remind us of the profound value of truthful words and sincere advice in transforming souls.

The Classification of Luqman's Advice

Luqman's advice to his son is a treasure trove of timeless wisdom and ethics. These pieces of advice have garnered significant attention from Islamic scholars and commentators throughout history due to their profound moral values and strong foundation for building a Muslim's character. His advice can be categorized into several key themes, each essential for spiritual and intellectual development:

1. Faith

- **Monotheism:** Monotheism (Tawheed) is the cornerstone of Luqman's advice, as he begins by warning his son against associating partners with Allah: *“O my son, do not associate [anything] with Allah. Indeed, association [with Him] is great injustice”* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 13). This warning carries a deep message that shirk (polytheism) is not merely an intellectual error but a grave injustice against the self and the Creator. Luqman emphasizes that worshipping Allah alone is the foundation of religion, granting individuals spiritual stability and inner peace. Monotheism is the source of all virtues and the guiding light for a person's journey through life (Latiano & Wiyani, 2024).
- **Belief in the Afterlife:** Luqman underscores the importance of reminding his son about accountability and divine recompense, implicitly seen in his guidance to enjoin good, forbid evil, and strive for righteousness. Belief in the Hereafter motivates individuals to perform righteous deeds, knowing that every action has consequences. The Quran describes the profound impact of faith in the Hereafter: *“Then to Me is your return, and I will inform you about what you used to do”* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 15). This belief ensures

balanced actions in worldly life, directed toward achieving goodness, benefiting both the individual and society.

- **Belief in Divine Decree (Qadar):** Submission to Allah's decree is evident in Luqman's worldview and choice of words, as he advises his son to accept Allah's will and remain patient in the face of challenges: *"And be patient over whatever befalls you"* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 17). Belief in Qadar provides believers with strength to endure hardships and patience in adversity. It fosters trust in Allah and reliance upon Him—qualities essential for navigating modern challenges and pressures (Sulaiman, 2021).

2. Ethics

- **Kindness to Parents:** Kindness to parents ranks at the top of the moral virtues emphasized by Luqman the Wise. Allah states in the Qur'an, narrating Luqman's advice to his son: *"And We have enjoined upon man [care] for his parents. His mother carried him, [increasing her] in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning is in two years. Be grateful to Me and to your parents; to Me is the [final] destination."* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 14). This divine command highlights the significant role parents play in a person's life, especially mothers who endure immense hardship in raising their children. Luqman teaches us that gratitude to Allah is incomplete without gratitude to one's parents, making kindness toward them one of the greatest acts of devotion. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: *"The pleasure of Allah lies in the pleasure of the parent, and the displeasure of Allah lies in the displeasure of the parent"* (Tirmidhi 1899; Sunan Ibn Majah 2209). Thus, being dutiful to one's parents not only paves the way to Paradise but also becomes a key reason for success in this world.
- **Patience:** Patience is the believer's Armor in facing life's trials and tribulations. Luqman urges his son to cultivate patience, emphasizing its status as one of the greatest virtues, bringing elevation in both this life and the Hereafter. Allah says: *"And be patient over what befalls you. Indeed, [all] that is of the matters [requiring] determination."* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 17). This advice demonstrates that patience is not merely enduring hardships but adopting a positive outlook with steadfastness, trusting in Allah's wisdom. Patience is a hallmark of inner strength and unwavering faith. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: *"Amazing is the affair of the believer. Verily, all of his affairs are good. If something pleasing happens to him, he is grateful, and it becomes better for him. If something harmful happens to him, he is patient, and it becomes better for him."* (Muslim 2999). This hadith highlights that patience is among the attributes of true believers who trust Allah's decree in all matters.

3. Worship

- **Establishing Prayer:** Prayer, the second pillar of Islam, serves as the most vital act of worship connecting a servant to their Lord. In his advice to his son, Luqman emphasizes the importance of establishing prayer: *"O my son, establish prayer..."* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 17). This phrase is more than an instruction to perform prayer; it is a call to observe it in its completeness, fulfilling its pillars and conditions, and making it a constant element of one's life. Prayer is not just a personal act of devotion but a means of purifying the soul, strengthening faith, and fostering a sense of accountability before Allah. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: *"The head of the matter is Islam, and its pillar is*

prayer." (Tirmidhi 2616). Prayer instills self-discipline and constant mindfulness of Allah, promoting moral integrity and a commitment to upholding ethical and social values.

4. Calling to Allah

- Calling others to Allah is an obligation for every capable Muslim, a responsibility that enhances society by guiding people toward goodness. Luqman highlights this duty in his advice: *"And enjoin what is right; forbid what is wrong..."* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 17). This directive is not limited to individual efforts but also lays the foundation for a collective responsibility to create a just and harmonious society.
- **A. Enjoining Good:** Good encompasses all acts commanded by Islamic law, including prayer, kindness, honesty, and charity. Luqman sought to instill this noble value in his son, as it builds a community grounded in cooperation and righteousness. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: *"Whoever guides someone to goodness will have a reward like the one who does it."* (Muslim). This hadith highlights the shared rewards of spreading good deeds, motivating Muslims to inspire others toward righteous actions.
- **B. Forbidding Evil:** Evil includes all actions prohibited by Islamic law, such as corruption, dishonesty, and immoral behavior. Forbidding evil serves as a protective shield for society, guarding it against moral decay and social disintegration. Luqman's emphasis on this principle reflects his commitment to societal reform and welfare. In today's world, where communities face challenges such as corruption, oppression, and moral decline, enjoining good and forbidding evil remain powerful tools for addressing these issues. For instance, advocacy campaigns by religious organizations that raise awareness against substance abuse or unethical practices contribute significantly to safeguarding individuals and society.

5. Interpersonal Dealings

- **A. Good Character:** Luqman's advice to his son to maintain good character underscores the importance of treating others with respect and kindness. Good character forms the foundation of harmonious social relations. He advises: *"And do not turn your cheek [in contempt] toward people, and do not walk through the earth exultantly..."* (Luqman: 18). This counsel warns against arrogance and calls for humility and gentleness in dealing with others. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: *"I was sent to perfect noble character."* (Musnad Ahmad, 8595).
- **B. Moderation:** Moderation is about maintaining balance in all aspects of life. Luqman advises against extravagance and wastefulness, encouraging restraint and wisdom in all matters: *"And be moderate in your pace and lower your voice..."* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 19). Moderation reflects insight and ensures sustainability of Allah's blessings, promoting a life of contentment and balance.

6. Social Conduct

- **Humility:** Humility is a core moral virtue that fosters healthy relationships and societal harmony (Wright, 2019). Luqman emphasizes this trait, saying: *"And do not turn your cheek [in contempt] toward people, and do not walk through the earth exultantly. Indeed, Allah does not like everyone self-deluded and boastful."* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 18). This

divine instruction highlights the dangers of arrogance and the necessity of approaching others with kindness and respect. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: *"No one humbles himself for Allah except that Allah raises him."* (Muslim). Humility reflects a believer's reliance on Allah and drives them to act with wisdom and compassion toward others.

Types of Challenges Facing Islamic Da'wah in the Modern Era

Islamic Da'wah (preaching) has always faced challenges, which are part of Allah's divine wisdom to test the faith and sincerity of His servants. As Allah says: *"Do the people think that they will be left to say, 'We believe,' and they will not be tested?"* (Quran, Surah 31, verse 2).

These challenges are manifestations of hostility toward Islam, which evolve over time in various forms. Allah reminds us: *"And if it were not for Allah repelling some people by means of others, the earth would have been corrupted"* (Quran, Surah 2, verse 251).

Since the emergence of Islam, Da'wah has encountered significant obstacles, such as denial, blind adherence to ancestral traditions, violent confrontations, and forced migration. It also faced economic crises, the threat of hypocrites, and alliances against it. Despite these challenges, Da'wah has continued to thrive, teaching us that steadfast faith and diligent effort are key to overcoming all adversities. Below are the main types of challenges faced by Islamic Da'wah:

Intellectual Challenges

These challenges arise in promoting the correct understanding of Islamic teachings amidst rapid developments in ideas and concepts in the modern age. Such influences can distort people's understanding of religion or propagate misconceptions. The primary intellectual challenges include:

A. Extremism and Terrorism

- **Extremism:** This refers to excessiveness in religion or negligence, leading to ideological and doctrinal deviation. Extremism often involves the misuse of religion to justify violence and rigidity (Roose et al., 2022). Misinterpretation of religious texts has fueled extremist groups that tarnish Islam's image. Allah warns against excessiveness: *"O People of the Scripture, do not commit excess in your religion"* (Quran, Surah 4, verse 171). The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: *"Beware of extremism in religion, for those who came before you were destroyed by extremism"* (Narrated by An-Nasa'i 3057).

B. Doctrinal Doubts

- **Doubts:** These are distorted questions or ideas about Islamic beliefs, such as the existence of God or core tenets of faith. The proliferation of media and technological advancements amplifies these doubts. Allah says: *"And of the people is he who disputes about Allah without knowledge and follows every rebellious devil"* (Quran, Surah 22, verse 3). The Prophet (peace be upon him) also warned about trials of faith, saying: *"A time will come when holding onto one's religion will be like holding onto a burning coal"* (Narrated by At-Tirmidhi 2260).

C. Atheism and Materialistic Thought

- **Atheism:** Denying the existence of Allah and relying on materialistic views that reject the unseen. These ideas have gained prominence due to cultural globalization and liberal ideologies. Allah describes this materialistic mindset: *"And they say, 'There is not but our worldly life; we die and live, and nothing destroys us except time'"* (Quran, Surah 45, verse 24). The Prophet (peace be upon him) predicted: *"The Hour will not come until it is said on earth: 'Allah, Allah'"* (Narrated by Muslim 148).

Social Challenges

These challenges affect Muslim societies and directly influence societal stability and Islamic values, thereby impacting Da'wah activities. Prominent social challenges include:

A. Family Disintegration

- **The diminishing role of families in religious upbringing:** Family disintegration has become a major challenge due to parents' preoccupation with work or technology, reducing spiritual and moral guidance within households. Allah emphasizes the family's role: *"O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones"* (Quran, Surah 66, verse 6). The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: *"Each of you is a shepherd, and each of you is responsible for his flock"* (Narrated by Al-Bukhari 7138).

B. Weakening of Ethical Values

- **The spread of moral corruption:** Modern times have witnessed an increase in unethical behaviors, such as dishonesty, fraud, immodesty, and indecency, exacerbated by media and social platforms. Allah says: *"Wretched is the name of disobedience after [one's] faith"* (Quran, Surah 49, verse 11). The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: *"Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should speak good or remain silent"* (Narrated by Muslim 1511).

C. Cultural Transformations

- **Influence of Western values:** Global cultural openness has led many Muslim societies to adopt foreign values contrary to Islamic principles, such as unbridled individualism or non-Islamic interpretations of gender equality (Norris & Inglehart, 2012). Allah warns: *"And do not be like those who became divided and differed after the clear proofs had come to them"* (Quran, Surah 3, verse 105). The Prophet (peace be upon him) cautioned: *"Whoever imitates a people is one of them"* (Narrated by Abu Dawood 4031). These challenges emphasize the need for Islamic Da'wah to adopt innovative and strategic approaches to address contemporary issues while staying rooted in authentic Islamic teachings.

Cultural Challenges

The cultural challenges facing Islamic da'wah in the modern era stem from several aspects, most notably modernity and the generational conflict. These challenges significantly impact Islamic identity and religious values within society. Below is an elaboration of these challenges with evidence from the Qur'an, the Sunnah, and contemporary reality:

- **Modernity: The Tendency to Imitate Western Values Without Preserving Islamic Identity.** Modernity represents a continuous drive toward cultural and social transformation across various aspects of life. This change is often accompanied by the adoption of Western values that influence individuals' perceptions and attitudes toward

religion and society. In many Muslim communities, there is an excessive imitation of Western values without considering the potential impact on Islamic identity and local culture. The Qur'an warns against blind imitation and division: *"And do not be like those who became divided and differed after clear proofs had come to them. And it is they who will have a great punishment."* (Surah Aal-E-Imran: 105) This verse underscores the importance of unity and adherence to Islamic identity rather than uncritically adopting ideologies and cultures that may contradict Islamic principles. The Prophet ﷺ said: *"Whoever imitates a people is one of them."* (Reported by Abu Dawood) This hadith highlights the dangers of unexamined imitation of foreign cultures, as it can lead to alignment with ideologies incompatible with the faith. In contemporary reality, blind imitation of Western culture is evident in fashion, education, media, and social interactions within many Muslim communities. As a result, some individuals drift away from fundamental Islamic values, such as modesty, lawful marriage, and general ethics, while adopting individualistic concepts that often conflict with religious principles.

- **Generational Conflict: Differences Between Youth and Elders Regarding Religious Values.** The generational conflict represents differences in perspectives between youth and elders concerning the understanding and application of religious values in daily life. Younger generations may approach Islamic values differently in the modern era, leading to a gap in understanding and practice between generations. The Qur'an emphasizes respecting elders and maintaining wisdom from previous generations: *"And We have enjoined upon man [care] for his parents."* (Surah Al-Isra: 23) This directive highlights the importance of mutual respect and understanding between generations to overcome conflicts. The Prophet ﷺ said: *"He is not one of us who does not respect our elders."* (Reported by Tirmidhi) This hadith underscores the necessity of valuing the experiences and insights of older generations while fostering dialogue to bridge generational differences. With the widespread influence of technology and modern media, younger generations in Muslim societies often embrace new ideas and concepts that may differ or conflict with traditional perspectives upheld by elders. This generational divide can create misunderstandings regarding the correct understanding and practice of religious values. While some youth lean toward liberal interpretations and Western-influenced openness, elders often adhere to more traditional and conservative interpretations of Islamic teachings.

The Role of Luqman's Advice in Addressing Modern Challenges

Building a Strong and Balanced Personality

Luqman's advice to his son, as mentioned in the Qur'an, provides a comprehensive framework for developing a balanced and resilient personality capable of addressing the intellectual, social, and cultural challenges of modern life. His advice offers practical lessons and profound values that address the depths of human psychology, enabling individuals to overcome crises and achieve personal and societal stability.

A. Humility and Moderation

Luqman emphasized humility in dealing with others and avoiding arrogance: *"And do not turn your face away from people in arrogance, nor walk in pride on the earth. Indeed, Allah does not like the arrogant and boastful."* (Surah Luqman: 18) This advice serves as a foundational pillar for addressing psychological and social challenges by promoting humility

and moderation in behavior. In an era dominated by rapid changes and materialistic values, humility fosters healthy interpersonal relationships and prevents conflicts stemming from egoism and pride.

B. Patience and Endurance

Patience is one of the qualities stressed in Luqman's advice as an essential element for overcoming hardships and challenges: "*And be patient over whatever befalls you. Indeed, that is of the matters [requiring] determination.*" (Surah Luqman: 17) This advice highlights that patience is not merely an option but a necessity for success in facing personal and societal challenges. In a time marked by economic, political, and intellectual pressures, patience remains a key to perseverance and progress.

C. Hope and Optimism for the Future

Luqman's advice carries messages that instill hope and optimism, helping individuals navigate crises with a positive outlook. He reminds his son of the importance of relying on Allah and trusting in His mercy, reinforcing a sense of security and tranquility.

Hope and optimism are essential for addressing intellectual and social crises that cause despair and loss of purpose in life. Faith in Allah's providence and the belief in eventual relief encourage confidence and resilience in overcoming adversities.

Luqman's advice provides timeless guidance for nurturing individuals and societies equipped to tackle the multifaceted challenges of the modern era while remaining rooted in their faith and values.

Strengthening Social Relations

The advice of Luqman the Wise, as mentioned in the Qur'an, provides a comprehensive approach to strengthening social relations and solidifying family and community values, making it an effective tool for addressing the social challenges that our societies face today, such as family breakdown and the weakening of moral values. These pieces of advice carry a profound message for building a cohesive society that reflects noble Islamic values.

A. Respecting Parents

The Foundation of Family Stability Luqman's advice focuses on respecting parents, which is a significant value in Islam and plays a central role in family stability. Allah says: "*And We have enjoined upon man [care] for his parents. His mother carried him with hardship upon hardship, and his weaning is in two years. Be grateful to Me and to your parents; to Me is the [final] destination*" (Luqman: 14). This advice is not merely a religious teaching but a practical call to strengthen the bond between parents and children, which helps address the growing phenomenon of family breakdown in modern societies due to life pressures and parents' busyness.

B. Maintaining Family Ties

A Cohesive Social Fabric Luqman's advice also encourages maintaining family ties, which is a fundamental pillar in building a connected society. The Prophet ﷺ said: "*Whoever desires that his sustenance be expanded and his life be prolonged, should maintain the ties of kinship*" (Bukhari). In the face of social challenges such as the weakening of family bonds due to excessive individualism, maintaining family ties becomes an effective means of creating a connected and cooperative community. In practice, families that maintain close ties enjoy

greater resilience in facing crises, whether economic or psychological, due to the mutual support among their members.

C. Good Neighborliness

The Key to a Safe Society Luqman's advice also calls for good neighborliness, a high moral value that helps promote social peace. The Qur'an emphasizes dealing kindly with others, saying: "And speak to people good [words]" (Al-Baqarah: 83). Good neighborliness is not limited to geographical proximity but extends to everyone around an individual, including coworkers, friends, and neighbors. The Prophet ﷺ said: "Jibril continued advising me regarding the neighbor until I thought he would assign him a share of inheritance" (Bukhari). This advice emphasizes the importance of neighborly relations in fostering social ties and the necessity of mutual understanding and tolerance within a community.

3. Reinforcing Ethical Values

Ethical values are the backbone of any healthy and prosperous society, and in the face of the ethical challenges confronting our world today, Luqman's advice provides a comprehensive framework to reinforce these values. Through its focus on fundamental principles such as honesty, justice, and tolerance, this advice contributes to building a cohesive society capable of addressing social and cultural challenges.

A. Honesty and Trustworthiness

The Foundation of Trust Between Individuals and Societies Luqman's advice underscores the importance of honesty and trustworthiness, which are established Qur'anic principles, as exemplified by Allah's words: "And do not conceal testimony, for whoever conceals it – his heart is indeed sinful" (Al-Baqarah: 283). Honesty is the cornerstone of trust between individuals, whether in personal or professional life. Trustworthiness in dealings ensures the stability of economic and social transactions. In societies where values like honesty and trustworthiness are absent, there is fragmentation in relationships and weakening of institutions. Implementing Luqman's advice in this context strengthens mutual trust and rebuilds social ties on solid foundations. The Prophet ﷺ said: "The signs of a hypocrite are three: when he speaks, he lies; when he makes a promise, he breaks it; and when he is entrusted, he betrays the trust" (Bukhari).

B. Justice and Fairness

The Key to Resolving Disputes Justice and fairness are values emphasized by Luqman's advice for achieving social balance and lasting peace. Allah says: "Indeed, Allah commands justice, the doing of good, and liberality to kith and kin" (An-Nahl: 90). Justice fosters trust among different parties, while fairness helps bridge social and economic gaps. In the face of ongoing social and cultural disputes today, these values are essential for resolving conflicts and building an equitable society that respects everyone's rights. The Prophet ﷺ was a model of justice in his dealings with both Muslims and non-Muslims. In a famous incident, he said: "If my daughter Fatimah had stolen, I would have cut off her hand" (Bukhari).

C. Tolerance and Mercy

Building a Harmonious Society Luqman's advice calls for tolerance and mercy in human interactions, values necessary for building multi-cultural and multi-faith communities. Allah says: "The good deed and the bad deed are not equal. Repel [evil] by that which is better"

(Fussilat: 34). Tolerance contributes to reducing conflicts and creates an environment of understanding between different groups. Mercy encourages helping others, which strengthens social solidarity. The Prophet ﷺ said: "Those who are merciful will be shown mercy by the Merciful. Be merciful on earth, and you will be shown mercy from above" (Tirmidhi).

Dialogue: An Everlasting Message from Luqman's Advice

The dialogue embraced by Luqman's advice is not just a means of communication but a tool for reform, building communities, and facing the challenges of the modern era. Applying this elevated Qur'anic approach allows us to overcome intellectual, social, and cultural crises, and to establish cohesive communities based on mutual respect and understanding. The Qur'an emphasizes the importance of dialogue and understanding as a means for reform and community building. Allah says in Surah Luqman: "O my son, establish prayer, enjoin what is right, forbid what is wrong, and be patient over what befalls you. Indeed, that is of the matter [requiring] determination" (Luqman: 17). In this verse, we see that dialogue begins within the family, highlighting its central role in education and upbringing. The Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ also strengthens the value of dialogue as a means for understanding and reform. The Prophet ﷺ was always teaching his companions and the Ummah through dialogue and guidance. Anas ibn Malik (RA) said: "The Prophet ﷺ was the best in character, and I had a brother named Abu Umayr. Whenever the Prophet ﷺ saw him playing, he would say: 'O Abu Umayr, what did the Nughayr do?'" (Bukhari). This simple example from the life of the Prophet ﷺ shows how he would engage in gentle dialogue with children, making them feel valued. In our current era, we face numerous intellectual, social, and cultural challenges that require us to adopt dialogue as an effective means of addressing them. Dialogue enables us to address intellectual crises such as extremism and terrorism by opening communication channels with the youth and guiding them toward a correct understanding of Islam. Furthermore, dialogue can act as a bridge to overcome social crises such as poverty and unemployment by fostering joint efforts between society and the state to find sustainable solutions. The dialogue advocated by Luqman's advice is a noble Qur'anic methodology that enables us to build cohesive communities based on respect and mutual understanding. By applying this methodology, we can overcome the intellectual, social, and cultural crises we face in the modern world and achieve true Islamic revival.

Conclusion

Luqman's advice to his son, as mentioned in the Qur'an, is not merely passing words or situational advice; it is a timeless legacy that combines divine wisdom and human experience, becoming a beacon for preachers and all those seeking reform in the face of the challenges of the modern era. What makes this advice unique and exceptional is its comprehensiveness, balance, depth, and applicability in all times and places.

Comprehensiveness: Wisdom That Encompasses All Aspects of Life

Luqman's advice comes as a comprehensive guide that covers various aspects of life. It begins with strengthening the relationship with Allah through monotheism and belief in Him, then moves to the development of character by embodying values and ethics, and continues to map out positive interaction with others through respect for parents, maintaining family ties, and kindness to neighbors. This comprehensiveness makes it an integrated tool for preachers

who need a holistic approach that touches hearts and minds and addresses all intellectual, social, and cultural challenges.

Balance: Integrating the Mind and Heart, Theory and Practice

Luqman's advice is distinguished by its unique balance, addressing both the mind and the heart simultaneously, making it capable of deeply affecting the soul. The combination of theoretical wisdom and practical guidance reflects a comprehensive vision that keeps pace with reality and demonstrates how values and principles can be applied in daily life. This balance is what today's preachers need as they face challenges that combine intellectual deviation with psychological and social disruption.

Depth: Reflections that Go Beyond the Surface to the Essence of Life

Luqman's advice is not merely superficial; it carries profound meanings that require reflection and contemplation. From his call for the oneness of Allah and rejection of polytheism, to his encouragement of patience, humility, and good neighborliness, each piece of advice can be understood on multiple levels, making it suitable for addressing intellectual challenges like extremism and atheism, as well as social issues such as family breakdown and the weakening of ethical values.

Timeless and Universal Relevance: Wisdom that Transcends Time and Place

What makes Luqman's advice unique in its impact and continuity is its timeless and universal nature. It is not confined to a specific time or culture but is applicable to every era and place. In the face of contemporary challenges, from modernity that ignores Islamic identity to intergenerational conflicts, Luqman's advice remains a guide that preachers can rely on to rebuild trust, strengthen values, and bring people back to the essence of Islam. Thus, Luqman's advice remains a guiding light and a renewed call for reform and construction in every time and place.

References

- Apriadi, R. (2023). Communication Ethics In Surah Al-Luqman Verse 13 Solution To Generation Gap In The Family. *International Journal of Sociology of Religion*, 1(2), 187-201.
- Azungah, T. (2018). Qualitative research: deductive and inductive approaches to data analysis. *Qualitative research journal*, 18(4), 383-400.
- Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2012). *Thematic analysis*. American Psychological Association.
- Katutu, A. & Usman, A. H. (2015). Lukman Al-Hakim messages: A theoretical model on how to teach in modern era. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 6(6), 2039-2117.
- Khoirul, M. (2023). The Concept Of Children's Education In The Al-Qur'an Letter Luqman Verse 13 From Perspective Tafsir Al-Misbah. *At-Tarbiyah: Jurnal Penelitian dan Pendidikan Agama Islam*, 1(1), 46-54.
- Latiano, G., & Wiyani, N. A. (2024). Islamic education in QS Luqman Verses 12-19 and its relevance with the aim of islamic religious education. *Journal of Education Research*, 5(1), 285-293.
- Maulana, H. (2023). THE MEANING OF LUQMANUL HAKIM'S WILL IN SURAH LUQMAN VERSES 13-19. In *International Conference on Education, Science, Technology and Health (ICONESTH)* (pp. 1236-1243).
- Mohiuddin, A. (2023). Islamism in the Digital Age: The Role of Cyberspace in Transforming Religious Authority. In *Navigating Religious Authority in Muslim Societies: Islamist Movements and the Challenge of Globalisation* (pp. 203-236). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.
- Norris, P., & Inglehart, R. F. (2012). Muslim integration into Western cultures: Between origins and destinations. *Political Studies*, 60(2), 228-251.
- Riaz, M., Baloch, F., Siddiqui, M., Ejaz, R., & Bashir, M. (2023). The Role of Islamic Education in Promoting Peace and Tolerance. *Al-Qanṭara*, 9(4), 308-327.
- Roose, J. M., Flood, M., Greig, A., Alfano, M., & Copland, S. (2022). *Masculinity and violent extremism*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Sopiyan, W., Hidayat, R., Marzuki, M., & Mislawaty, S. E. (2024). Integration of the Movement to Spread Islamic Teachings in Answering the Challenges of the Modern Era and Technological Development. *El-Ghiroh: Jurnal Studi Keislaman*, 22(1), 115-130.
- Sulaiman, K. U. (2021). The Mission to Develop Godly Individuals: An Islamic Perspective. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 11(8), 799-818.
- Sultana, M., & Bukhari, S. A. G. (2021). Globalization as a Great Challenge to DAWAH and its Solution in Islamic Perspective. *Peshawar Islamicus*, 12(2), 85-96.
- Wright, J. C. (Ed.). (2019). *Humility*. Oxford University Press.