TIBB NABA WI
on Nature based Products

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Discussion about Al-Mann and Al-Salwa from a Quranic and Hadith Perspective: An Analysis

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A discussion on food, drink, plants and herbs based on the Quranic text and Hadith was done and the discussion referred to the opinion of mufassir and muhaddith since the research world had widened its space to the research that is based on scientific discovery and experiments.

Among the most popular discussions in society is regarding food and beverages which is mentioned clearly in the Quranic Text and Hadith and there is a word named “makanan sunnah” or ‘Sunnah Food” especially in Malaysian society. Due to that phenomenon, various types of products such as food, beverages, plants and fruit are mixed with various fruits or only one substance, not in its original form, unless found in the form of oil, supplements, fruit concentrate, capsules and others, were considered sunnah.

Henceforth, al-Manna and al-Salwa are part of the discussion and research is in multiple perspectives mainly focusing on the discussion towards the Quranic and Hadith text, and more detail on the food given specifically from Allah SWT to the people of Prophet Musa which is Bani Israel. In reality, there are people who directly claimed al-Mann as an Arabic Gum while al-Salwa is referred to as a dove or quail. Therefore, how can we find the most accurate view with the right terminology in identifying the types of food and drink in the text of Al-Quran and Hadith?

Scope and Methodology

This chapter will focus on the discussion on the Al-Quran and Hadith that mentioned what is related to al-Mann and al-Salwa. The whole text will be discussed thematically by referring to the view of mufassir and muhaddith along with the opinion of contemporary scholars.
This discussion is required in order to relate the understanding of al-Mann and al-Salwa.

Hence, society is able to differentiate between the right and correct aspect than the reality that happens in society. The whole text is discussed by referring to the qualitative approach based on the deductive analysis method in which the general Surah al-Nas is discussed to obtain the specific opinion that is related to al-Mann and al-Salwa. Later on, it is compared with the views and understanding among the public.

**Result and Research Findings**

In the Al-Quran, any story or mention of al-Mann and al-Salwa can be referred from three different surah which are al-Baqarah verse 57, al-A'raf verse 160 and Taha verse 80. As in Table 1.1 below:

Haji Abdul Karim Amrullah (HAMKA) in his tafsir, *Tafsir al-Azhar* stated that the history of those verse being sent down were addressed to the people of Bani Israil which were the Jewish people in Madinah that were disobedient and in fact they were against the preaching of Prophet SAW either secretly or in public.¹

In explaining the meaning of food types that were named as al-Mann and al-Salwa, the tafsir scholars have various opinions.

**Explanation on al-Mann**

Ibn Jarir al-Tabari did mentioned several opinions of salaf al-salih regarding the meaning of al-Mann. Among them were Qatadah who said al-Mann was sent down to Bani Israil while they were lost in the sand fields of al-Tih, al-Mann was resembling snow. According to Mujahid, al-Mann means rubber, while for al-Rabi’ bin Anas, al-Mann was a drink that was sent down to Bani Israil that resembled honey, they added water and drank it. As for Ibn Zaid, it was honey sent down to them from the sky².

Meanwhile, Ibn ‘Abbas and Muqatil stated that al-Mann was a tree of al-Taranjabin (الترَانْجِبِينَ)³ and some others said that it was al-Zanjabil (الزَنْجَبِيلَ)، while al-Sudi said that al-Mann was sent down

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Table 1.6: List of Plant’s Name Referred to al-Mann in the View of the Researcher

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Plants /Substance That Referred To al-Mann</th>
<th>Explanation:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘Haj’ or its name is Aaqil (Alhagi maororum or</td>
<td>Turanjabin (local language) also known as shagul-jamal (the camel fodder)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Haj’ also called as Tamarix mannifera</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Kam’ah – a type of mushroom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic gum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Analysis Findings

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References

Ali Muhammad, Plants Mentioned in The Quran, Chapter-II, t.p.: t.tp, t.t.
Tibb Nabawi on Nature-based Products is a book containing a collection of 11 articles that have been presented in the International Conference on Botanical Medicine Based on Sunnah Nabawiyah (ICONIC 2017) on the 20-25 August 2017 in Male, Maldives. This conference was organized by the University of Malaya with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Republic of Maldives. The theme of conference was "Food Based on Sunnah Nabawiyah: Demand and challenges in an Urban Society". This book discusses various topics relating to Tibb Nabawi (Prophetic Medicine) especially from plants, herbs or food. Additionally, some of the discussions involved researches from the point of view of manuscripts on traditional medicines. Among the plants and herbs highlighted in this book (which are mentioned either in the holy Quran or hadith) are al-Quṣṭ (Chellocostus Speciosus), Idhkhîr, Henna, Yaqîtn (Lagenaria Siceraria), Corn (Zea Mays) and and plants from the Zingiberaceae family. Among the food discussed in this book include al-Mann wa al-Salwa and honey. The discussions in this book are very important for readers to gain a clear understanding about the benefits of plants and herbs mentioned in the Quran and hadith. It is crucial to note that Allah the Almighty does not mention anything in the Quran and the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) does not narrate anything in his hadith except for the benefit to humankind. It is with great hope that the content of this book will bring great benefit to everyone.