

**ASSESSING PLURALISM: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF  
TAFSIR AL-KASHSHĀF AND FĪ ŻILĀL AL-QUR'ĀN WITHIN  
THE FRAMEWORK OF RELIGIOUS MODERATION**

**THESIS**

Submitted to State Islamic Institute of Kediri to fulfill one of the  
requirements in completing the Bachelor's program



**MUHAMMAD ALIF RAIHAN**

**(21102042)**

**STUDY PROGRAM OF AL-QUR'AN AND TAFSIR SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF USHULUDDIN AND DAKWAH  
STATE ISLAMIC INSTITUTE OF KEDIRI**

**2025**

**APPROVAL PAGE**

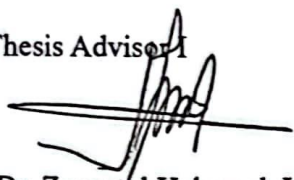
**ASSESSING PLURALISM: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TAFSIR  
AL-KASHSHĀF AND FĪ ZILĀL AL-QUR'ĀN WITHIN THE  
FRAMEWORK OF RELIGIOUS MODERATION**

**Muhammad Alif Raihan**


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## MEMORANDUM

**Memo Number** :  
**Attachments** : 4 (four) documents  
**Subject** : Thesis Supervision

To  
Dean of the Faculty of Ushuluddin and Dakwah  
State Islamic Institute (IAIN) of Kediri  
Jl. Sunan Ampel 07 Ngronggo, Kediri

Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

In response to the Dean's request to supervise the preparation of the following student's thesis:

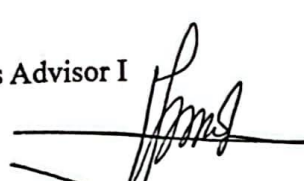
**Name** : Muhammad Alif Raihan  
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**Title** : *Assessing Pluralism: A Comparative Study of Tafsir al-Kashshāf and Fī Zilāl al-Qur'ān within The Framework of Religious Moderation*

After reviewing the material and structure, we consider that the thesis meets the minimum requirements as part of the requirements for earning a Bachelor's Degree (S1). Together with this memo, we also attach a set of necessary documents in the hope that this thesis will soon be approved and brought to the Final Thesis Examination (Munaqashah).

Thus, this memo is conveyed, and we thank you for your attention.

Wassalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

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VALIDATION PAGE

ASSESSING PLURALISM: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TAFSIR  
AL-KASHSHĀF AND FĪ ZILĀL AL-QUR'ĀN WITHIN THE  
FRAMEWORK OF RELIGIOUS MODERATION

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Has been examined before the Thesis Examination Board  
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On 3 June 2025

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Kediri, 3 June 2025

Dean of the Faculty of Ushuluddin and Dakwah  
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## READING APPROVAL PAGE

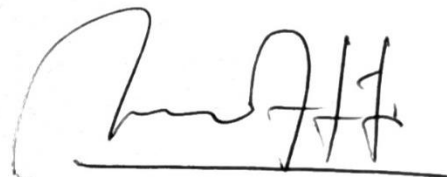
I hereby certify that I have read the thesis entitled, “The Concept of Pluralism in Religious Moderation According to The Qur’an (Comparative Study of Tafsir al-Kashshāf and Fī Zilāl al-Qur’ān)”, written by:

Name : Muhammad Alif Raihan  
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Study Program : Al-Qur'an and Tafsir Science  
Faculty : Ushuluddin and Dakwah

I declare that I have reviewed this thesis from the perspective of English grammar and structure. Based on my review, the language used in the thesis is grammatically correct and appropriate for academic writing.

Thus, I approve this thesis to be submitted and examined by the Thesis Examination Board.

Kediri, 2 March 2025  
Head of English Education Study Program  
State Islamic Institute of Kediri (IAIN Kediri)



Nur Afifi, M.App.Ling., Ph.D.  
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## MOTTO

"Wenn du es nicht einfach erklären kannst,  
hast du es nicht gut genug verstanden."

(Albert Einstein)

“Pünktlichkeit ist eine Ehre.”

(Muhammad Alif Raihan)

“Hab geduld, alle Dinge sind schwierig bevor sie leicht  
werden.”

## DEDICATION PAGE

This work is wholeheartedly dedicated  
to the thinkers of Islam — whose ideas illuminate the path of truth,  
to the da'wah activists — who stand firm in the face of adversity,  
and to the people of the world — who yearn for justice, dignity, and a better  
tomorrow.

May this humble contribution be a part of the long and winding journey  
toward building a society grounded in knowledge, faith, and transformative  
action.

## DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

I, the undersigned below

Name                      Muhammad Alif Radhan  
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Study Program            Al-Qur'an and Tafsir Science  
Faculty                    Ushuluddin and Dakwah

Hereby declare that this thesis is truly my own work, and not the result of plagiarism, either in part or in whole. If at any time it is later proven that this thesis is a result of plagiarism, either partially or entirely, I am willing to accept any sanctions in accordance with the applicable regulations.

Kediri, 26 April 2025

The Declarant

  
  
**Muhammad Alif Radhan**  
**21102042**

## ABSTRACT

Muhammad Alif Raihan. Thesis Advisors Dr. Zaenatul Hakamah Lc., MA.Hum. and H. Zainal Muttaqin, MA. Assessing Pluralism: A Comparative Study of Tafsir al-Kashshāf and Fī Zilāl al-Qur’ān within The Framework of Religious Moderation. Thesis, Study Program of al-Qur’an and Tafsir Science, Faculty of Ushuluddin and Dakwah, State Islamic Institute (IAIN) of Kediri 2025.

Keywords: Comparative tafsir, al-Kashshāf, Fī Zilāl al-Qur’ān, religious pluralism.

This research assesses the concept of religious pluralism through a comparative study of two major Qur’anic exegeses: al-Kashshāf by al-Zamakhsharī and Fī Zilāl al-Qur’ān by Sayyid Qutb. Set against the backdrop of Indonesia’s religiously diverse society, the study responds to growing tensions between theological exclusivism and calls for social harmony. It aims to assess how these two exegetes interpret Qur’anic verses related to religious diversity and pluralism, and how their interpretations can inform a balanced Islamic approach to coexistence without compromising doctrinal clarity.

The research applies a qualitative library-based method using the muqāran (comparative) approach. Several key verses on pluralism are selected and analyzed through theological, social, and historical-cultural lenses. Al-Zamakhsharī’s interpretation reflects a rational and linguistic style rooted in the Mu‘tazilite tradition, emphasizing the purity of tawḥīd while acknowledging previous revelations. Sayyid Qutb, on the other hand, offers a socio-political perspective, positioning Islam as a comprehensive system that resists religious relativism and upholds ideological consistency within a plural context.

The findings show that both commentators firmly reject the notion of theological pluralism that equates all religions as equally true. Instead, they affirm Islam’s exclusivity as the final divine message while recognizing the need for justice, compassion, and respectful engagement with others. This research concludes that religious moderation (wasatiyyah) in Islam must be rooted in sound theology and applied as an ethical framework that supports peaceful coexistence without eroding the boundaries of Islamic belief.

## PREFACE

All praise is due to Allah, who has bestowed upon me the strength, patience, and clarity to complete this undergraduate thesis entitled, “Assessing Pluralism: A Comparative Study of Tafsir al-Kashshāf and Fī Zilāl al-Qur’ān within The Framework of Religious Moderation.”

The process of researching and writing this thesis has been both intellectually stimulating and spiritually enriching. It has challenged me to reflect more deeply on the ideals of justice, compassion, and coexistence as essential Islamic values. I am profoundly grateful to everyone who has supported me throughout this academic journey.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to:

1. Ms. Dr. Zaenatul Hakamah, Lc., MA.Hum. and Mr. H. Zainal Muttaqin, MA, for their patient guidance, constructive critiques, and scholarly insight;
2. All lecturers and academic staff of the Faculty of Ushuluddin and Da’wah who have contributed to my academic formation;
3. My family and close friends, for their continuous support, prayers, and understanding;
4. And to all Muslim scholars—past and present—whose thoughts and dedication continue to inspire and shape the discourse of Islamic moderation.

This work is far from perfect, and I remain open to constructive feedback for future improvement. May this thesis serve as a small contribution to the development of Qur’anic studies and to the ongoing conversation on how Islam engages with plurality in a principled and peaceful manner.

Kediri, 15 April 2025

Muhammad Alif Raihan

## TRANSLITERATION GUIDELINES<sup>1</sup>

This thesis uses the transliteration system developed by the International Journal of Middle East Studies (IJMES) for Arabic terms. Transliteration refers to the representation of letters from one script into another, in this case, from the Arabic script into the Latin alphabet using a standardized academic format.

Arabic-Latin Transliteration (IJMES System)

Arabic Letter	Arabic Name	Latin Equivalent
أ	Hamzah	ʾ
ب	Bāʾ	B
ت	Tāʾ	T
ث	Thāʾ	Th
ج	Jīm	J
ح	Ḥāʾ	Ḥ
خ	Khāʾ	Kh
د	Dāl	D
ذ	Dhāl	Dh
ر	Rāʾ	R
ز	Zain	Z
س	Sīn	S

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<sup>1</sup> "IJMES Transliteration System for Arabic, Persian and Turkish," Cambridge University Press & Assessment, accessed April 16, 2025, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-file-manager/file/57d83390f6ea5a022234b400/transchart.pdf>.

ش	Shīn	Sh
ص	Ṣād	Ṣ
ض	Ḍād	Ḍ
ط	Ṭā'	Ṭ
ظ	Ẓā'	Ẓ
ع	'Ain	'
غ	Ghain	Gh
ف	Fā'	F
ق	Qāf	Q
ك	Kāf	K
ل	Lām	L
م	Mīm	M
ن	Nūn	N
و	Wāu	W
هـ	Hā'	H
ي	Yā'	Y



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