

ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to identify the dynamic aspect of relationships among the members of tarekat that accompany political development. This study is conducted in the region of Kudus, Central Java. The respondents are the leaders (guru), as well as followers (murid) of two groups of tarekat named Qadiriyyah wa Naqsyabandiyah and Naqsyabandiyah Khalidiyyah. The present study has interviewed 15 leaders and 50 followers.

Tarekat is utilized as a preparation to achieve happiness in the hereafter, but the leaders interviewed state that they still pay attention on the political issues. The political attitude of the tarekat leaders of Qadiriyyah wa Naqsyabandiyah, however, is slightly different from that of the tarekat leaders of Naqsyabandiyah Khalidiyyah. In various crucial political events the tarekat leaders of Qadiriyyah wa Naqsyabandiyah have shown a relatively more flexible attitude towards the state. But a number of the tarekat leaders of Naqsyabandiyah Khalidiyyah give support the PPP and believe that this party has capability to represent an Islamic ideology and interest.

The present study indicates that both the tarekat members of Qadiriyyah wa Naqsyabandiyah and Naqsyabandiyah Khalidiyyah tend to prefer to make reference to the their own political ideas rather than of their leaders. This is rooted at least in two things: firstly, the government policy has succeeded to demise of the Islamic political ideology in this country, and secondly, the leadership of the tarekat has already become more monomorphic.