

## KH Dr. Abdul Ghafur Maimoen, M.A.

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As a child, Abdul Ghofur was a popular and active little boy, as Mischievous and playful as the other little children in his fishing village. But as the son of a well known Ulama, the influences he received developed his character a little differently from that of the other children his age in that in the village.

He completed both Elementary School and High School in Madrassah Ghazaliyah Syafi'iyah Sarang Rembang (Central Java). During the period of his studies, he developed a reputation as a critical thinker and received many accolades for his achievements. No wonder if he always became a Star and Rais in the class. Abdul Ghofur was not only academically gifted but he displayed organisational skills. He was entrusted for two successive years as School Captain.

Despite achieving many awards for Academic Excellence, being entrusted with high positions in several organisations as well as being the son of a well known Ulaama, young Abdul Ghofur was never prone to arrogance. His parents had truly raised him as a humble "Abdullah".

After finishing his High School in 1992, young Ghofur helped his father in Pondok (Islamic Boarding Madrassah). In 1993 he continued his study to Al-Azhar University, Cairo.

In Cairo he built upon his previous achievements. He finished his Bachelor Program in Ushuluddin (Islamic Theology) majoring in Tafseer attaining Jayiid Jiddan (High Distinctions). His Master Degree in the same study was completed in two years with the same result.

This success was no coincidence but due his self-discipline, diligence and patience (sabaar). Diligence may not have been his strength while he was in Madrassah, but in Cairo he found he could forego sleep and spend hour after hour deep in study. When diligence, sabaar and discipline combines with Allah's gift/Rahmaah of intelligence, the Highest Academic Achievement is possible.

Through this hard work, finally in 2002 he received His Master Degree. He had to write 700 pages and include countless "Maraji" (references). His writing skill really only came in the fourth year when he lived in Cairo. People who knew him since a very young age will be amazed with his progress. They will be surprised to search 'Abdul Gofur Maimoen' on the internet and find so many writings by him. Yes, Abdul Ghofur who had lack of writing became Abdul Ghofur now so productive in writing.

In 2003 he married the daughter of the well known Ulama, Nadia. They have been blessed by a little boy named Nabil.

His 1700 pages of dissertation was divided into two volumes; and was presented and defended on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June in the Abdul Halim Mahmud Auditorium, Ushuluddin

Faculty, Al-Azhar University. As one of the main members of Cabang Istimewa Nahdlatul Ulama (PCINU) Mesir, Abdul Ghofur Maemun, has, once again, brought pride to Indonesia by adding himself to the number of those with a doctorate in the tafsir field. He graduated after defending his dissertation titled Hasyiah Al-Syekh Zakaria Al-Anshary Ala Tafsir Al-Baidhawiy, Min Awwal Surah Yusuf Ila Akhir Surah I-Sajdah; with a cum-laude, from Al-Azhar University in Kairo.

Abdul Ghofur's doctorate defense was held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June in the Abdul Halim Mahmud Auditorium, Ushuluddin Faculty, Al-Azhar University. The examination panel consisted of: Prof Dr Muhammad Hasan Sabatan, academic leader in Tafsir dan Ulumul Qur'an Fakultas Ushuluddin Kairo as internal examiner, Prof Dr Ali Hasan Muhammad Sulaiman, academic leader in Tafsir dan Ulumul Qur'an Fakultas Dirasat Islamiyyah Banin Kairo as external examiner, and two PhD supervisors Prof Dr Sayid Mursi Ibrahim Al-Bayumi, academic leader in Tafsir dan Ulumul Qur'an Fak.Ushuluddin Kairo and Prof Dr Abdurrahman Muhammad Aly Uways, academic leader in Tafsir dan Ulumul Qur'an Fak. Ushuluddin Kairo. Also, said defense were attended by university students and other interested persons from both Indonesian and Egypt community.