CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Islam is a doctrine which does not only regulate the affairs of human life in his life in the world, but also regulates a person's life until his preparation towards the next world, namely the Hereafter. Even Islam urges every Muslim to strive to provide the most honorable form of death, which is martyrdom. Martyrdom generally means dead in the struggle to establish the religion of God as a result of murder by the enemy parties, namely the kuffar (Gentiles) on the battlefield.

But besides that, the Prophet shollallahu 'alaihi wa sallam (peace be upon him) also said some form of death that could lead someone to the degree of death as a martyr, for example, people who die because of a plague or a woman who is struggling to bear baby.

Among the interesting stories about the death of martyrdom is the story of Hamza bin Abdul Muttalib, he is the uncle of the Prophet Muhammad PBUH. The martyrdom or a martyr is termed shaheed (literally, "witness"). Shaheed appears in the Quran in a variety of contexts, including witnessing to righteousness (Quran 2:143), witnessing a financial transaction (Quran 2:282) and being killed, even in an accident as long as it does not happen with the intention to commit a sin, when they are believed to remain alive making them witnesses over worldly events without taking part in
them anymore (Quran 3:140). The word also appears with these various meanings in the *hadith*, the sayings of Muhammad (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyr). In this film the researcher analyzes the martyrdom of the Prophet’s uncle named Hamza who is dead in the battle of Uhud.

*The Message* is a 1976 film directed by Moustapha Akkad, chronicling the life and times of the prophet of Islam, Muhammad. Released in both Arabic and English, *The Message* serves as an introduction to early Islamic history. It was produced by: Tarik Film Distributors, Filmco International Productions. Run Time: 179 minutes, Category: Feature, Genre/Type: Epic, and the Key Cast: Anthony Quinn, Irene Papas, Michael Ansara, Johnny Sekka, Michael Forest, Damien Thomas, Garick Hagon, Ronald Chenery. The film was nominated for an Oscar in 1977 for Best Music, Original Score for the music by Maurice Jarre.

Director Akkad faced resistance from Hollywood to make a film about the origins of Islam and had to go outside the United States to raise the production money for the film. Lack of financing nearly shut down the film as the initial backers pulled out, financing was finally provided by Libyan leader Muammar al-Gaddafi. The film was shot in Libya and Morocco, it was taking four and a half months to build the cities of Mecca and Medina as they looked in Muhammad's time.

Akkad also filmed an Arabic version of the film (in which Muna Wassef played Hind) simultaneously with an Arab cast for audiences in the
Middle East. He felt that dubbing the English version in Arabic would not be enough as Arabic acting style differed from Hollywood's. The actors would take turns doing the English and Arabic versions in each scene. Both the English and Arabic versions are now sold together in some DVDs.

In accordance with Muslim beliefs regarding depictions of Muhammad, he was not depicted on-screen nor was his voice heard. This rule extended to his wives, his daughters, his sons-in-law, and his caliphs (Abu Bakr As-Siddique, Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib, Umar ibn Khattab, Uthman ibn Affan). This left Muhammad's uncle Hamza (Anthony Quinn) and his adopted son Zayd (Damien Thomas) as the central characters. During the battles of Badr and Uhud depicted in the movie, Hamza was in nominal command even though the actual fighting was led by Muhammad.

Whenever Muhammad was present or very closes by, his presence was indicated by light organ music. His words, as he spoke them, were repeated by someone else such as Hamza, Zayd and Bilal. When a scene called for him to be present, the action was filmed from his point of view. Others in the scene nodded to the unheard dialogue.

The closest the film came to a depiction of Muhammad or his immediate family was the view of Ali's sword Zulfiqar during the battle scenes, as well as staff in the scenes at the Kaaba or in Medina.

The film follows Muhammad first years as a prophet starting with Islam's beginnings in Mecca in which the Muslims are persecuted, the exodus to Medina, and ending with the Muslims' triumphant return to
Mecca. A number of crucial events, such as the Battle of Badr and Battle of Uhud are depicted, and the majority of the story is told from the point-of-view of peripheral individuals such as Hamza ibn ‘Abd al-Muttalib (Muhammad's uncle), Abu Sufyan (the leader of Mecca) and his wife Hind bint Utbah (enemies of Islam who later become Muslims themselves).

The Message (originally screened in the U.S. as Mohammad, Messenger of God) proved to be highly controversial during its production and initial release. Unfounded rumours had it that Mohammad would not only be depicted in the film, but that he was to be played by Charlton Heston or Peter O'Toole. This resulted in angry protests by Muslim extremists, until director Moustapha Akkad hired a staff of respected Islamic clerics as technical advisors. The advisors butted heads with Akkad, and they quit the production, which led the Moroccan government to withdraw their permission to film in their country. In time, Akkad ended up shooting on location in Libya under the sponsorship of Muammar Qaddafi, which presented a whole new set of political and practical problems for the filmmakers. Finally, when the film was scheduled to premier in the U.S., another Muslim extremist group staged a siege against the Washington D.C. chapter of the B'nai B'rith under the mistaken belief that Anthony Quinn played Mohammad in the film, threatening to blow up the building and its inhabitants unless the film's opening was cancelled. The standoff was resolved without explosion or injuries, though the film's American box office prospects never recovered from the unfortunate controversy.
Message was shot in two versions, one in English and one in Arabic (entitled Al-Ris-Alah), with different actors taking over some of the roles due to language requirements.


Akkad was born July 1, 1930 in Aleppo, Syria. His father, then a customs officer, gave him $200 and a copy of the Quran before he left for the United States to study film direction and production at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). Akkad spent a further three years studying for a Master's degree at the University Of Southern California (USC), where he met the director Sam Peckinpah. Peckinpah became Akkad's mentor in Hollywood and hired him as a consultant for a film about the Algerian revolution that never made it to the big screen, but he continued to encourage him until he found a job as a producer at CBS.

In 1976, he produced and directed The Message, starring Anthony Quinn and Irene Papas. Akkad faced resistance from Hollywood to make the film in Morocco. While creating The Message, he consulted Islamic clergies.
and tried to be respectful toward Islam and its views on portraying Prophet Muhammad. He got the Approval from the Al Azhar in Egypt but was rejected by Muslim World League in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The Government of Kuwait, Libya and Morocco promised to support the film financially, but when it was rejected by the Muslim World League, Kuwait withdrew its financial support. The Late King Hassan II of Morocco gave him full support for the production of the film. The production of the Message took one year, Akkad filmed 6 month in Morocco, but had to stop when the Saudi Government exerted a great pressure on Morocco to stop the production. Akkad went to president Qaddafi of Libya for support to complete the project, Qaddafi allowed him to move the filming to Libya for the remaining 6 month until the film was finalized.

In 1978, he helped make low-budget film history when he produced *Halloween*. Akkad became best known for his key involvement in the first eight *Halloween* movies, as an executive producer (the only producer to participate in all of these films). The series was highly profitable, although it was only the first film that became iconic.

In 1980 he directed *Lion of the Desert*, in which Quinn and Irene Papas were joined by Oliver Reed, Rod Steiger, and John Gielgud. It was about the real-life Bedouin leader Omar Mukhtar (Quinn), who fought Benito Mussolini's Italian troops in the deserts of Libya. The movie is now critically acclaimed, after initially receiving negative publicity in the West for being partially funded by Libya's Muammar al-Gaddafi, who invested
$35 million in the movie. This negative publicity may have been the cause of its relatively poor performance at the box office.

In the United Kingdom Akkad once tried to buy Pinewood Studios from the Rank Organisation and also had a studio at Twickenham. At the time of his death, he was in the process of producing an $80 million movie featuring Sean Connery about Saladin and the Crusades, for which he already had the script that would be filmed in Jordan.

Akkad and his 34-year-old daughter, Rima Akkad Monla, were killed in the November 9, 2005 Amman bombings in Amman, Jordan. They were both in the lobby at the Grand Hyatt when a suicide bomber sent by Al-Qaeda detonated his device; his daughter died instantly, and Akkad died of his injuries two days later in a hospital. Moustapha Akkad is survived by his former wife, Patricia Akkad and their sons, Tarik and Malik who helped produce most of the Halloween movies, as well as his widow, Suha Ascha Akkad, and their son Zaid.

The film reveals the first years of early Islamic history. In the 7th century, Muhammad PUBH became the prophet and started inviting people towards Islam, to worship only one Allah. The followers of Muhammad PUBH are offended by the rulers of Mecca. They had to leave Mecca for Madina and return to Mecca again with triumphant victory. This long history has been described in the film with great skill. Some important historical events like Battle of Badr and Battle of Uhud are depicted in the
movie. The story is told from the point of view of Hamza, Abu Sofiyan and Hind bint Utbah.

However, prophet Muhammad PUBH is not depicted on screen, even his voice is not heard. The same rule is used for his wives, daughters, and son’s in law. That’s why the battle of Badr and Uhud is commanded by Hamza although the actual battle was led by Prophet PUBH. The presence of Prophet PUBH is depicted by light organ music. All these things make the movie more interesting and believable. Even Hazrat Ali’s sword Zulfiqar is seen in the battle scenes.

*The Message* is an interesting movie; there are four aspects that make this movie interesting. First, there are many books of the life history of Prophet Muhammad but infrequently it is found in the movie. No doubt, films are the greatest media to represent history now-a-days. Film reaches to the ‘digital’ generations who are less interested in books and make them aware of the glorious histories of the countries along with the notorious histories of the enemies. And films can do this so effectively that the viewers do not endeavour finding the facts whether they are true rather believing the history. So that is why the researcher is excited to analyze this film.

Second, it is an experience of a lifetime. It shows the true meaning of Islam, its roots, and its basic beliefs. This film is about how Islam that begins from the beginning until its establishment. Anthony Quinn stars as Hamza the uncle of Prophet Mohammad PBUH who is the leader of an army
of a few loyal men against an army of thousands. The film is not about
offence but about defence and ends with peaceful armed less walk into the
city of Mecca after many years of suffering. This film explains how the
Prophet Mohammad starts his message with a few men and eventually
gaining thousands and today millions. The film talks about the establishment
the spread of Gods message and the story of the men who have to give away
their lives for the sake of Gods words including the sacrifice that mades is
the death of Hamza.

Third, this movie teaches strength of life. Hamza is a dare-devil.
He is a patriot that never gives up in supporting Islam and a smart Islamic
battle commander in some battlefields that establishes the future of Islam
like Badr and Uhud. He becomes one of the most determiners in victory of
Badr with some other of sahabaa though the numbers of troop of Muslim
are just a little.

Last is that it touches the soul when Hamza participates in the
Battle of Uhud to a very great degree. Hind sends Wahshi before the Battle
of Uhud and promises him with a lot of money and wealth if he kills Hamza.
She is doing that to takes the revenge of her father and brother that are killed
in Badr. Wahshi is famous in targeting. When Hind hear that Hamza has
been killed, she comes to his body and cut out his liver.

Based on the previous reason, the researcher intends to conduct a
study on Moustapha Akkad’s *The Message* particularly the martyrdom of
the major character using Alfred Adler’s Individual Psychological theory.
This study is conducted under the title “Martyrdom of Prophet’s Uncle in The Message Movie Directed by Moustapha Akkad (1976): An Individual Psychological Approach”.

B. Literature Review

Actually, the writer is not the first person who analyzes the movie of The Message movie by Moustapha Akkad. However it does not mean that the writer only plagiarizes the previous studies. To prove the originality of the research, the writer presents the previous studies.

The first previous research is Kardiansyah (2009) UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, the title is Respon Mahasiswa Jurusan Komunikasi dan Penyiaran Islam Terhadap Film The Message. He employs a quantitative approach, processing of the data is using descriptive analysis, and technique of collecting data is using questionnaire. He examines how the response of KPI students about The Message movie in cognitive response, affective response, and connective response. From the research he finds that although majority KPI students never watch The Message movie before, but responses of students are positive enough.

The second is review by Russell J Lowke (December 18th, 2001), the title is Essay Three — Muhammad “Early Persecution in Mecca” Based on this movie, he explains how persecuted Muslims in Mecca at that time and this persecution is remembered by Islam bitterly, for example the slave Bilal who refused an order from Abu Sofyan to whip the obstinate Muslim that Abu Sofyan has chastised. Bilal refuses, knowing that the teachings of
Muhammad offer him freedom. For his refusal, Bilal is tied down, whipped, and then crushed under a huge stone.

Different from previous researches the writer focuses on how the martyrdom of Hamza as the major character to get a heaven in supporting Islam in psychological perspective. For this reason the writer is interested to analyze ‘Martyrdom of Prophet’s Uncle in The Message Movie Directed by Moustapha Akkad (1976): An Individual Psychological Approach’.

C. Problem Statement

Considering the phenomenon, the problem statement of the research is how is the martyrdom of the prophet’s uncle reflected in “The Message” movie directed by Mustapha Akad (1976)?

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the researcher can propose some objectives of the study below:

1. to analyze the structural elements of the movie in order to identify the unity of the movie.

2. to analyze the martyrdom of Hamza reflected in Mustapha Akad’s The message movie based on an individual psychological approach.

E. Limitation of the Study

To make the research appropriate with the objectives of the study, the researcher will make a limitation of the research. The researcher will
only focus on how the martyrdom of Hamza reflected in Mustopha Akad’s *The Message* movie.

**F. Benefit of the Study**

There are two benefits of the study:

1. **Theoretical Benefit**
   
Theoretically the result of the study contributes to the larger body of knowledge particularly literary study.

2. **Practical Benefit**

   Practically, the study can add the knowledge to the researcher of the individual psychological theory applied in a literary work, particularly on Mustopha Akad’s *The Message* movie.

**G. Research Method**

In analyzing this novel, the researcher uses qualitative method that has some steps as follows:

1. **Object of the Study**

   The object of the study is Mustopha Akad’s *The Message* movie produced By Tarik Film Distributors, Filmco International Productions 1976. It is analyzed by using an individual psychological approach.

2. **Type of Study**

   In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is library research while data source is literary data. It purposes to analyze the
movie using sociological prespective. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data sources, (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

In this study, there are two sources of data namely primary and secondary data sources.

a. Primary data sources

The primary data source is Mustopha Akad’s *The Message* movie.

b. Secondary data sources

The secondary data sources are the author’s biography, essay, comment, homepage, and website about the movie and other relevant sources.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of data collection are capturing the picture and note taking, the steps are:

a. Watching the movie for the several time
b. Reading the movie script
c. Determining the character that will be analyzed
d. Taking note of important parts in both primary and secondary data
e. Classifying and determining the relevant data
f. Taking note from the material and some other resources related to
the movie and the analysis.

5. **Technique of the Data Analysis**

The technique used in analysing the data is descriptive analysis. It
concerns with the structural elements of the movie and an individual
psychological approach.

H. **Research Paper Organization**

In order to make this paper easy to be followed, the writer gives some
orders for the paper organization. Chapter 1 contains introduction that
consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement,
objective of the study, benefit of the study, limitation of the study, research
method and paper organization. Chapter II is about underlying theory that
deals with notion of individual psychology, basic assumption of individual
psychology and theoretical application. Chapter III covers structural
elements of the movie that includes character and characterization, setting,
plot, point of view, theme of movie and other aspect which support to the
movie. Beside, this chapter also contains discussion of the structural
elements of movie. Chapter IV is individual psychology analysis. It is about
application of the theory individual psychology toward the movie. Chapter
V consists of conclusion and suggestion.