

**THE ELEMENTARY FORMS OF RELIGIOUS LIFE REFLECTED IN
ERIC WEINER'S MAN SEEKS GOD (2011): SOCIOLOGICAL
APPROACH**

RESEARCH PAPER



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MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2021**

APPROVAL

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TESTIMONY

Here, the writer testifies in this reseach paper there is no plagiarism of the research that has been made before to complete bachelor degree in a university and as long the writer knows that there is also no work or opinion which ever been published or composed by another, except those which the writing are refered in the manuscript and mentioned in the bibliography. Therefore, if it that here are some untrue statement here, the writer will be fully responsible.

Surakarta, 8 June 2021

The Writer



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MOTTO

***Do What You Can With All You Have, Wherever You Are – Theodore
Roosevelt***

***If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then
crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward – Martin
Luther King Jr***

DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to:

1. My beloved parents Mr. Riman and Mrs. Saginem
2. My beloved big brother Budi Santoso and my beloved little sister Rima

Rokha Nurlaeni

3. Mrs. Yeny Prastiwi, S. Pd., M. Hum., Ph.d. as the my research paper
consultant

4. My beloved grandma Mrs. Giyem
5. All of my big family and my friends

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In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious. The Most Merciful

First of all praise to Allah SWT, the creator of the world and the lord of the universe who has given the researcher power and strength in commpleting this researh paper. Peace and salutation be upon to our great messenger, prophet Muhammad SAW, his families and all of his followers.

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The Researcher

ABSTRACT

Man Seeks God is a novel created by Eric Weiner which tells the author's journey to find God by exploring the eight explore the eight religion in the world. The writer is interested to analyze this novel to tells how a man finds his faith by the journey that he made and come across many religions from the others countries. The purposes of the study are: 1) to find out the journey of Eric Weiner in seeks of god depicted in the novel; 2) to find out the elementary forms of religious life reflected in the journey of Eric Weiner reviewed from sociological approach; 3) to find out how the problems faced by Eric Weiner on his journey to seeks of God.

The writer applies the qualitative research method in conducting the research. The primary data source of the study is “*Man Seeks God*” novel by Eric Weiner (2011), which refined and rewritten with the title: *Geography of Faith* (2016). Documentation, library, browsing method, and notes taking techniques are method to collect the data. Analysis of the data uses the descriptive qualitative technique about collecting the data, reducing, displaying, than verifying and conclusion.

The result of study shows that: 1) Eric Weiner's journey to seek God started from Sufis with love of God, then meditated in Tibet, serve with the Franciscans in New York, having fun with the Raelians, then practicing his chi with the Taoists in China. Back in the US, he coiled up with the Wicca witches and animal trances with the followers of Shamanism. At the end of the trip, he returned at the Kabbalah ritual in Jerusalem. Weiner constructs God is all good things; 2) All of the 8 religions described in the novel, there are similarities in the fundamentals of religious life which require humans to worship (rituals), love themselves, do good to others and do not concern themselves with personal interests. Religion teaches how to worship God and teaches goodness in social life. A good religion is also a religion that makes human beings higher; 3) Weiner on his way encountered various problems: he did not find a suitable answer to answer who God is. Weiner also felt anxious about having to follow a shamanic ritual to become an animal spirit. The Jews too were too much with rules. The answer to overcoming this problem Weiner wrote an inspiring sentence: “Bad religion takes us down. Good religion exalts us, makes us better than we think or maybe better than we can imagine.

Keywords: *seeks of god journey, elementary forms, sociological approach, Man Seeks God novel*

ABSTRAK

Man Seeks God adalah novel karya Eric Weiner yang menceritakan perjalanan penulis menemukan Tuhan dengan mengeksplorasi delapan mendalami delapan agama di dunia. Penulis tertarik untuk menganalisa novel ini untuk menceritakan bagaimana seseorang menemukan keyakinannya melalui perjalanan yang dia lakukan dan menemukan banyak agama dari negara lain. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah: 1) untuk mengetahui perjalanan Eric Weiner dalam pencarian dewa yang digambarkan dalam novel; 2) untuk mengetahui bentuk-bentuk dasar kehidupan beragama yang tercermin dalam perjalanan Eric Weiner ditinjau dari pendekatan sosiologis; 3) untuk mengetahui bagaimana masalah yang dihadapi oleh Eric Weiner dalam perjalanannya mencari Tuhan.

Penulis menerapkan metode penelitian kualitatif dalam melakukan penelitian. Sumber data primer dalam penelitian ini adalah novel "*Man Seeks God*" karya Eric Weiner (2011) yang disempurnakan dan ditulis ulang dengan judul: *Geography of Faith* (2016). Dokumentasi, pustaka, metode browsing, dan teknik pencatatan merupakan metode pengumpulan data. Analisis data menggunakan teknik deskriptif kualitatif tentang pengumpulan data, reduksi, penyajian, verifikasi dan penarikan kesimpulan.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa: 1) Perjalanan Eric Weiner mencari Tuhan dimulai dari sufi dengan cinta Tuhan, kemudian bermeditasi di Tibet, mengabdikan bersama Fransiskan di New York, bersenang-senang dengan Raelian, kemudian melatih chi-nya dengan para Taois di Cina. Kembali ke AS, dia bergaul dengan para penyihir Wicca dan kesurupan hewan bersama para pengikut Shamanisme. Di akhir perjalanan, dia kembali ke ritual Kabbalah di Yerusalem. Weiner membangun bahwa Tuhan adalah semua hal yang baik; 2) Dari 8 agama yang diuraikan dalam novel, terdapat persamaan dalam dasar-dasar kehidupan beragama yang mengharuskan manusia untuk beribadah (ritual), mencintai diri sendiri, berbuat baik kepada orang lain dan tidak mementingkan diri sendiri dengan kepentingan pribadi. Agama mengajarkan bagaimana menyembah Tuhan dan mengajarkan kebaikan dalam kehidupan bermasyarakat. Agama yang baik juga merupakan agama yang membuat manusia lebih tinggi; 3) Weiner dalam perjalanannya menemui berbagai masalah: dia tidak menemukan jawaban yang cocok untuk menjawab siapa Tuhan itu. Weiner juga merasa cemas karena harus mengikuti ritual perdukunan untuk menjadi roh binatang. Orang Yahudi juga terlalu banyak mengatur. Jawaban untuk mengatasi masalah ini Weiner menulis kalimat yang menginspirasi: "Agama yang buruk menjatuhkan kita. Agama yang baik meninggikan kita, membuat kita lebih baik dari yang kita pikirkan atau mungkin lebih baik dari yang dapat kita bayangkan."

Kata kunci: perjalanan mencari Tuhan, bentuk-bentuk dasar, pendekatan sosiologis, novel *Man Seeks God*

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