

# The Implementation of the Story of Thalut and Jalut in QS Al-Baqarah Verses 246-252 to Foster the Spirit of Courage in Generation Z

Naufal Asmar Nafi<sup>1\*</sup> Kharis Nugroho<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Islamic Religion, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, Surakarta, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup> Faculty of Islamic Religion, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, Surakarta, Indonesia

## Abstract

*The story of Thalut and Jalut in QS Al-Baqarah verses 246-252 holds valuable lessons in the form of values of courage, leadership, steadfastness of faith, and wisdom. These values are relevant to inspire Generation Z, a generation that grew up in the digital era and faces complex social, psychological, and spiritual challenges. This study aims to explore the application of these values as a guide in building courage, resilience, and leadership among Generation Z. With a contextual interpretation approach, this article connects the story of Thalut and Jalut with the spiritual, moral, and intellectual needs of the younger generation, offering real solutions to the challenges of their modern lives. In addition, this study also highlights the importance of instilling spiritual values to form a generation that has moral resilience amidst the rapid flow of digitalization. This story not only provides a historical example, but also offers practical inspiration in facing modern challenges, such as social pressure and cultural change. The values explored from this story are expected to be a guideline for Generation Z to face the complexities of life while still adhering to the principles of faith.*

## Introduction

Generation Z, often known as “digital natives,” is a generation group born between the mid-to-late 1990s and early to mid-2010s after the previous generation, the millennial generation. They are the first generation to grow up with the development of the internet, smartphones, and social media, so they have high digital skills from an early age. (Dimock, 2019) The strong influence of technology makes them very dependent on digital devices, not only for information and communication needs, but also for entertainment, education, and work. Some of the characteristics of Generation Z are more concise and informal communication patterns, often using platforms such as Instagram, WhatsApp, and TikTok as their main media. They also have shorter attention spans than previous generations, which is related to the consumption of fast and visual content.

According to the American Psychological Association's (APA) 2018 "Stress in America" survey, approximately 91% of Generation Z reported experiencing one or more symptoms of stress, either physical or emotional. (Pokhrel, 2024) The main causes were uncertainty about global issues, such as climate change, and pressures from social media and technology. Additionally, 58% of Generation Z respondents felt anxious or sad, and 55% reported a lack of motivation or energy as common symptoms of stress. This generation also experiences stress related to politics, social change, and environmental issues, with nearly two-thirds worrying about the future of their country. This is one of the impacts of using social media which has a changing viewing algorithm ranging from politics, economics, lifestyle.

The story of Thalut and Jalut in Surah Al-Baqarah (verses 246-252) presents valuable lessons about courage, leadership and the importance of steadfast faith in facing challenges. In this story, Thalut was chosen as king by Allah SWT, even though he came from a group that was considered lowly by his people. (Karunia, 2016) Thalut's election emphasizes that true leadership is not about social status or wealth, but about personal qualities, namely courage, determination and high moral integrity. Thalut is known for his strength, wisdom, and ability to lead, which shows that good leaders are those who have the courage to uphold justice and provide a positive example for the people he leads. (Al Faruq, Imron, n.d.)

By implementing the values of courage from this story, Generation Z is expected to be able to reflect and then hone their abilities to face modern challenges, both in personal and social contexts.

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\* Corresponding author: [g100210044@student.ums.ac.id](mailto:g100210044@student.ums.ac.id).

## Literature Review

Research on the story of Thalut and Jalut in QS Al-Baqarah verses 246-252 has been extensively studied in various classical and modern tafsir. Tafsir Al-Qurthubi and Tafsir Al-Maraghi highlight the importance of leadership and courage in facing challenges. Meanwhile, Tafsir Fi Zhilalil Qur'an emphasizes the relevance of these values in shaping individuals' moral resilience in responding to rapid social changes. (Al Faruq, Imron, n.d.)

Contemporary studies also show that Generation Z, as a digital generation, faces significant challenges in maintaining spiritual and moral values. Some research suggests that the influence of social media, social pressures, and cultural changes can hinder their character and leadership development. Therefore, the implementation of values from the story of Thalut and Jalut can serve as a solution in shaping the character of this generation.

## Methodology

qualitative methods with a contextual interpretation approach to explore the relevance of Quranic values in the story of Thalut and Jalut. The main data was taken from QS Al-Baqarah verses 246-252, which were analyzed through various classical commentaries such as Tafsir Al-Qurthubi, Tafsir Al-Maraghi, and Tafsir Fi Zhilalil Qur'an. This approach is also strengthened by references from contemporary literature relevant to the dynamics of Generation Z. (Nugroho, Kiram, & Andriawan, 2023)

Secondary data were obtained from books, scientific articles, and surveys related to the characteristics of Generation Z. The hermeneutic method was applied to understand the historical context and essence of the values in the story. Textual studies were conducted to examine in depth the explicit and implicit messages in the related verses. The data triangulation process was used to ensure consistency of interpretation through comparison of various sources. (Ishtiaq, 2019)

Thematic analysis is the core of this method, focusing on key themes such as courage, leadership, steadfastness of faith, and wisdom. These themes are then linked to the challenges faced by Generation Z, such as the influence of technology, social pressure, and moral challenges. With this multidimensional approach, the study produces a more comprehensive understanding of how the values in the story of Thalut and Jalut can be implemented as practical guidelines for the younger generation in facing the dynamics of modern life.

This method also follows the literature analysis framework by Nazir (1988), which emphasizes the importance of collecting data from primary and secondary sources to obtain a holistic picture. Thus, the results of this study can provide a significant contribution to the development of character and spiritual values in the lives of Generation Z. (Iii, 2002)

## Results And Discussion

### The Concept of Courage in the Koran

In the Qur'an, the concept of courage is often implied through its antonym, namely fear. Fear is a basic emotion that is natural and often present in humans when facing something unexpected or dangerous. Behind this emotion, fear plays an important role as a drive to bring out courage in humans. With fear, a person is driven to act carefully and with calculation when facing things that are full of risk, (Hidayat & Salim, 2024) such as threats to life, haunting poverty, torturous hunger, or various other difficult challenges that arise in life. (Hude 2020)

In this context, fear becomes more than just a feeling of anxiety or apprehension, but rather an important form of self-defense mechanism. Fear serves to protect oneself from danger and, at the same time, triggers courage that arises through rational action. A person who feels afraid is faced with the choice of fleeing from danger or facing the threat with calculated courage.

Fear, in this case, does not encourage someone to retreat without reason, but rather as an encouragement for humans to prepare thoroughly in facing risks that may threaten their safety, soul, and body. This fear encourages humans to generate more sincere and more meaningful courage when they are faced with situations that require defending the truth or efforts to defend principles that are believed in. (Hanna Salsabila, Farhan Muhammad 2023) In facing various threats, the emotion of fear that arises serves to ensure that this courage does not appear in the form of rash or reckless actions, but rather actions that are based on mature consideration and hope for safety. (Hude 2020)

The Qur'an also emphasizes that human courage in facing risks is driven by belief in God's help as He says:

قَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ آيَةٌ فِي فِتْنَتِ الثَّقَيْنِ لَمَّا اتَّخَذُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَأُخْرَى كَافِرَةٌ يَرَوْنَهُمْ مِثْلَيْهِمْ رَأْيَ الْعَيْنِ وَاللَّهُ يُؤَيِّدُ بِنَصْرِهِ  
مَنْ يَشَاءُ ۗ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَعِبْرَةً لِّأُولِي الْأَبْصَارِ

“Indeed, there has been a sign for you in the two groups facing each other. One group fights in the way of Allah and the other (group) of disbelievers see with their own eyes that they (the Muslim group) are twice as strong as they are. Allah strengthens with His help whom He wills. Indeed, in that there is a lesson for those who have sight (eyes of the heart)” (Surah Ali 'Imran Verse 13).

A believer who relies on Allah in his struggle to face challenges, especially in defending the truth, will feel that the courage he has does not only come from himself. This courage is a gift of strength given by Allah to His faithful servants, who hold on to the belief that Allah's help always accompanies those who strive to uphold the truth. With this belief, the courage within a person becomes stronger and more rooted, giving him peace and steadfastness in facing every test and threat that may come his way. (Hude 2020)

The story of Thalut and Jalut in QS Al-Baqarah verses 246-252 illustrates how steadfast faith and trust in Allah are the keys to success. Thalut, despite coming from a humble background, was chosen by Allah to lead the Children of Israel because of his extraordinary personal qualities, including wisdom, justice, and determination. Allah chose Thalut because He saw those qualities as more important than social status or wealth. (Istiqomah 2017) Thalut is known as a brave and intelligent leader, who has strong strategic abilities in facing enemies even though his army is smaller.

In Al-Qurthubi's view, true courage in Islam also includes the moral ability to reject worldly temptations and remain steadfast to Islamic principles. This moral courage, according to Al-Qurthubi, requires individuals to remain faithful to religious teachings and values of truth even in the midst of difficult and oppressive situations, such as injustice or worldly temptations. He describes this courage as the determination to maintain honesty, loyalty to religious principles, and consistency in upholding the truth. By courageously maintaining morality amid external pressures, one demonstrates a form of courage that is not only physical, but also rooted in Islamic spirituality. (“AL- MARAGHI (Pemikiran Teologinya) Oleh : H. Masnur,” n.d.)

Sheikh Ahmad Mustafa Al-Maraghi in Interpretation of Al-Maraghi emphasizes that courage that comes from faith gives a person the strength to remain patient and sincere when facing various life challenges. According to him, the story of Thalut and Daud fighting Jalut is a relevant example of courage based on strong faith. Even though their troops were small and physically weaker, their strong faith kept them confident of victory with Allah's help. Al-Maraghi emphasized that true courage requires sincerity and patience to stick to the truth, despite enormous pressure from the outside world. In other words, this courage is not just physical courage, but the courage to live in truth and follow religious teachings without being tempted by the temptations of the world. (“AL- MARAGHI (Pemikiran Teologinya) Oleh : H. Masnur,” n.d.)

### The Story of Thalut and Jalut

The story of Thalut and Jalut occurred during the time of Prophet Musa (as). At that time, the Bani Israel, who were his followers, often refused orders to fight in order to enter the region of Canaan, which is now known as Palestine. Because of their disobedience, God punished them by trapping them in the Sinai Desert for 40 years. (Nurul Hikmah 2018)

After the death of Prophet Moses and Prophet Aaron, the leadership of the Children of Israel was continued by Yusya' bin Nun, also known as Joshua. He successfully led the conquest of the surrounding areas, such as Amaliqoh, Madyan, Aram, and even entered Palestine. However, after Yusya' and other leaders died, the Children of Israel began to disintegrate, sinking into prolonged conflict, and ignoring the teachings of the Torah. As a result, when they returned to war with the Palestinian people under the leadership of Jalut, they suffered a crushing defeat. The women and their descendants were abused, and the holy ark containing the records of God's commandments (Torah) was seized by the enemy and placed in the temple of Dajon, the god of the Palestinian people. (Dhuroruddin Mashad 2003a)

In a state of great suffering and humiliation, the Children of Israel asked their most pious Prophet, Prophet Shamuil, to appoint a king to lead them in war and restore their honor. However, Shamuil said, “It is very likely that you will find an excuse to avoid being invited to war, just as happened in the time of Prophet Moses.”

In response to this sarcasm, the Children of Israel replied, “How can we avoid it, when this war is to restore our honor?” Finally, Shamuil told them that a leader named Thalut will come, who will be assigned to unite them all and become their first king. (Dhuroruddin Mashad 2003a)

## **Thalut's Life History Before Becoming King**

Thalut was originally just a village youth from among the Bani Israelites, who even came from a family that had no wealth. Not only is he not known as a leader, even in everyday life only a few people know him. However, Thalut has a strong and healthy body, tall and handsome, with sharp eyes and a broad and sharp mind. His heart is pure, his morals are gentle and noble. He lived in a small village with his father, working as a farmer and cattle herder.(Bey Arifin 1963) In Jewish historical records, Thalut is known as Paul. Meanwhile, in the Koran, he is called Thalut.(Afif Abdullah 1985)

One day, when Thalut was in the stable with his father, they realized that their donkey was missing, probably lost in another village. Accompanied by a young man, Thalut went to look for her in the vast fields, crossing ravines and climbing hills. The search lasted for several days, until their feet were injured, and their bodies felt very tired, but the donkey had not been found. Finally, Thalut said to the young man who accompanied him, "Let's go back, maybe father is worried because we haven't come home for days."(Bey Arifin 1963)

Then, the child replied, "Now we have arrived at the village of Shofa, where the Prophet Syamuil lived. We should meet him first and ask about the missing donkey. Perhaps a revelation will come to him, so that he can shed some light on our problem." Hearing this, Thalut's hope reappeared. The two of them continued their journey and asked about the whereabouts of Prophet Syamuil's house. They then met two girls who were looking for water in the desert. Thalut also asked where Prophet Syamuil's house was and asked them to show him the way there. The girls explained that anyone who wanted to meet Prophet Syamuil had to wait at the top of this hill. Not long after that, Prophet Syamuil appeared. Thalut immediately knew that the person he met was the Prophet Syamuil, who was marked by his prophetic characteristics, as explained by the two girls.(Bey Arifin 1963)

They looked at each other, and a bond was formed between them, with sincere hearts and souls connected, even though they had never met before. Prophet Shamuil realized that the person in front of him was Thalut, whom Allah had revealed to him to be appointed as king, leader, and general for the Children of Israel who were in great need of his guidance. After that, Thalut asked, "We have come to meet you to ask about my father's donkey that was lost in this field. Can you tell us with the knowledge you have?"(Bey Arifin 1963)

Syamuil then answered, "The lost donkey has now returned to its pen, so there is no need to look for it anymore. I want to meet with you to discuss something more important and noble. This is not about the lost donkey, but about the issue of freedom that has been lost for a long time. Allah has chosen you to be king for the Children of Israel, to unite them and gather their strength to face the enemies who have invaded and driven them from their homeland. In addition, Allah has promised His help to you in the struggle against these invaders."Thalut answered, "Is I will be their king, leader and general? I am only a descendant of Benjamin, the younger brother of the Prophet Yusuf, a despicable person among the tribes of the Bani Israel, the poorest and most backward. How can I become king and lead this great nation ?"Syamuil answered, "This is a decision and revelation from Allah. This is His command and will. You must be grateful for the blessings He has given you and make up your mind to lead this great struggle."(Bey Arifin 1963)

Thalut said, "Am I going to be their king, leader and general? I am a descendant of Binyamin, the younger brother of the Prophet Yusuf, who is considered lowly among the tribes of the Children of Israel, the poorest and most backward. How can I lead a nation that this big?" Syamuil answered, "All this is the will and revelation from Allah. This is His command, and has become His decision. Be grateful for the blessings He has given you and establish your intention to lead this great struggle."(Prof. Dr. HM. Dailamy 2021)

Shamuil then informed the Children of Israel that the signs the sign that Thalut would become king was when he led them to victory. In addition, the ark containing the symbol of glory and peace for them will return to them, carried by angels. Inside the ark are family relics of the Prophets Moses and Harun, such as tablets containing God's wills.(Bey Arifin 1963)

After Syamuil and Thalut shook hands, they then went to meet the Israelites. Prophet Syamuil said to them, "O Children of Israel, Allah has chosen Thalut to be king among you. Now he has the right to lead you, so let you all respect and obey him, and be prepared to face your enemies under his leadership."(Bey Arifin 1963)

Thalut is a leader who has courage, loyalty and a high fighting spirit, as well as deep knowledge, especially in political and social matters. Thanks to these advantages, he succeeded in mobilizing the forces of the Children of Israel to liberate themselves from colonial rule in Jalut.(Nasution 1992)

## **Jalut's Life Story**

Jalut, also known as Goliath, was a Palestinian military leader known for his cruelty, ruthlessness, and inhumanity. It is estimated that he lived around the 11th century BC and was the main enemy of Thalut, who was appointed by God as the first king of the Children of Israel through His revelation to Syamuil. In a battle, Jalut was finally killed by a young man named Dawud, the son of a pious man, who joined the Thalut army. Dawud crushed Jalut's head with a large stone he threw.(Nasution 1992)

When Thalut and his army of believers prepared to face Jalut and his infidel army, this tyrannical leader stepped out of line and challenged anyone who dared to fight against him personally, one on one, before the great

battle began.(Zaidin 2017)In history it is said that Dawud's courage to defeat Jalut arose because Thalut really wanted a soldier who could kill Jalut. Thalut then announced, "Whoever succeeds in killing Jalut and saving the believers from his deception, he will be married to one of my daughters and appointed king after me."(Nasution 1992)

Jalut's death at the hands of Dawud further strengthened Thalut's position as the first king of the Children of Israel. After that, power shifted to Dawud's hands. In the Koran, the battle between Jalut troops and Thalut troops occurred after the time of Prophet Musa. This story is retold by Allah in Surah Al-Baqarah, verses 246 to 252.

### The story of Thalut and Jalut in the Koran

The story of Thalut and Jalut is closely related to the Jews and the history of the Children of Israel, also known as the Israelites or Hebrews (Hebrew). The history of this nation is immortalized in the Al-Qur'an, one of which is in Surah Al-Baqoroh verses 246-252, which reads as follows:

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الْمَلَأِ مِنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مُوسَى إِذْ قَالُوا لِنَبِيِّهِمْ أَيُّكَ اللَّهُ خَيْرٌ قَالَ هَلْ عَسَيْتُمْ إِنْ كَتَبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الْقِتَالُ أَلَّا تُقَاتِلُوا قَالُوا قَالُوا وَمَا لَنَا أَلَّا نُقَاتِلَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْ أُخْرِجْنَا مِنْ دِيَارِنَا وَأَبْنَانَنَا فَلَمَّا كُتِبَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْقِتَالُ تَوَلَّوْا إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّنْهُمْ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ بِالظَّالِمِينَ ٢٤٦

Meaning: "Have you not considered the leaders of the Bani Israel after the prophet Moses, namely when they said to one of their

prophets: "Appoint for us a king so that we fight (under his leadership) in the way of Allah." Their prophet answered: "It is very possible that if you are obliged to fight, you will not fight." They answered: "Why do we not want to fight in the way of Allah, when in fact we have been expelled from our children?" So when war was made mandatory for them, they turned away, except for a few of them. and Allah knows best who the wrongdoers are" (Al- Baqarah Verse 246).

وَقَالَ لَهُمْ نَبِيُّهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ بَعَثَ لَكُمْ طَالُوتَ مَلِكًا قَالُوا أَنْتَىٰ يَكُونُ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ عَلَيْنَا وَنَحْنُ أَحَقُّ بِالْمُلْكِ مِنْهُ وَلَمْ يُؤْتَ سَعَةً مِّنَ الْمَالِ قَالَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَاهُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَزَادَهُ بَسْطَةً فِي الْعِلْمِ وَالْجِسْمِ وَاللَّهُ يُؤْتِي مُلْكَهُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ٢٤٧

Meaning: "Their prophet said to them: "Indeed, Allah has appointed Thalut to be your king." They answered: "How can Thalut rule us, when we have more right to control the government than him, and he was not given sufficient wealth?" (their) prophet said: "Indeed Allah has chosen your king and granted him extensive knowledge and a mighty body." Allah gives government to whom He wills. and Allah is Most Expansive in His Gifts, All-Knowing" ((Surat Al-Baqarah Verse 247).

وَقَالَ لَهُمْ نَبِيُّهُمْ إِنَّ آيَةَ مُلْكِهِ أَن يَأْتِيَكُمُ التَّابُوتُ فِيهِ سَكِينَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَبَقِيَّةٌ مِّمَّا تَرَكَ آلُ مُوسَىٰ وَآلُ هَارُونَ تَحْمِلُهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّكُم إِنْ كُنْتُمْ مُّؤْمِنِينَ ٢٤٨

Meaning: "And their prophet said to them: "Indeed, the sign that he will become king, is the return of the ark to you, in which there is peace from your Lord and the remains of the family of Moses and the family of Aaron; the ark was carried by an angel. Indeed, in this there is a sign for you, if you are believers."((Surat Al-Baqarah Verse 248).

فَلَمَّا فَصَلَ طَالُوتُ بِالْجُنُودِ قَالَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مُبْتَلِيكُمْ بِنَهَرٍ فَمَنْ شَرِبَ مِنْهُ فَلَيْسَ مِنِّي وَمَنْ لَّمْ يَطْعَمْهُ فَإِنَّهُ مِنِّي إِلَّا مَنِ اعْتَرَفَ غُرْفَةً بِيَدِهِ فَشَرِبُوا مِنْهُ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا مِّنْهُمْ فَلَمَّا جَاوَزَهُ هُوَ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ قَالُوا لَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا الْيَوْمَ بِجَالُوتَ وَجُنُودِهِ قَالَ الَّذِينَ يَظُنُّونَ أَنَّهُمْ مُّلتَفُوا بِاللَّهِ كَمَ مِّن فِتْنَةٍ قَلِيلَةٍ غَلَبَتْ فِئْتَهُ كَثِيرَةٌ يَّاذُنِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ ٢٤٩

Meaning: "So when Thalut came out with his soldiers, he said: "Indeed, Allah will test you with a river. So whoever among you drinks the water; he is not my follower. And whoever does not drink it, except taking a little with his hand, then he is my follower." Then they drank it except a few of them. So when Thalut and those who believed with him had crossed the river, those who had drunk said: "There is no Our ability today to fight Jalut and his army." Those who believe that they will meet Allah, say: "How often has it happened that a small group has defeated a large group by Allah's permission. And Allah is with the patient ones."((Surat Al- Baqarah Verse 249).

وَلَمَّا بَرَزُوا لِجَالُوتَ وَجُنُودِهِ قَالُوا رَبَّنَا أفرغ عَلَيْنَا صَبْرًا وَثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ ٢٥٠

Meaning: "When Jalut and his army were seen by them, they (Thalut and his army) prayed: "O our Lord, pour patience upon us, and strengthen our stance and help us against the disbelievers."((Surat Al-Baqarah Verse 250).

فَهَزَمُوهُمْ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَقَتَلَ دَاوُدُ جَالُوتَ وَآتَاهُ اللَّهُ الْمُلْكَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَعَلَّمَهُ مِمَّا يَشَاءُ وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ لَفَسَدَتِ الْأَرْضُ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ ذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ ٢٥١

Meaning: "They (Thalut's army) defeated Jalut's army with Allah's permission and (in that battle) David killed Jalut. Then Allah gave him (Daud) rule and wisdom (after Thalut's death) and taught him what He wanted. If Allah had not rejected (terrorism) some parts of humanity with others, this earth would have been destroyed. But Allah has grace (which is bestowed) on the universe."((Surat Al-Baqarah Verse 251).

تِلْكَ آيَاتُ اللَّهِ تَنْزَلُهَا عَلَيْكَ بِالْحَقِّ وَإِنَّكَ لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ ٢٥٢

Meaning: "These are verses from Allah, We read to you with truth (truth) and indeed you are truly one of the prophets who were sent"((Surat Al-Baqarah Verse 252).

This verse describes that Thalut was appointed as the first king to lead the Children of Israel in facing Jalut and his troops. However, this decision actually drew rejection from the Children of Israel themselves. They immediately opposed and broke the oaths and promises they had made, because they considered that Thalut did not come from a prominent family or honorable lineage. In their view, a person's rank is determined by wealth and family status, which are considered the main symbols of nobility and excellence. Thalut's lack of wealth and prominent lineage made the Children of Israel view him as unfit to be their leader.(Dhuroruddin Mashad 2003b)

In addition, the Children of Israel had another candidate who they considered more worthy to be their king and leader. According to them, the candidate who was worthy to lead was a descendant of Lawei, namely someone from the lineage of the prophets and apostles and from the descendants of Jahuza, who had always held control, leadership and comes from a family of kings. This belief made them feel that Thalut was not suitable to lead. They rejected Thalut not only because he came from an undistinguished family, but also because he lived in poverty and did not have the wealth that was considered important for running the government. In their eyes, the ideal leader is someone who is rich, influential, and able to show strength and greatness, in contrast to Thalut who is simple and does not have large resources to support his leadership.(Rambe 2018)

Syamuil then responded, "To become a military leader and head of state, royal blood and wealth are not the main requirements. Even though someone may have both, without wisdom and ability, he will not be a good king. Often, royal blood actually makes a person tend to be cowardly, and abundant wealth can weaken the sharpness of the mind. As for Thalut, Allah has prioritized him above you because he has extraordinary physical strength, broad thinking, sharp intelligence, determination of spirit, and fortitude chose him as king, and power is given to whomever He wills. Allah is vast in His gifts and All-Knowing. He knows exactly what goodness is needed and puts everything in its place justly and wisely."(Bey Arifin 1963)

This situation is an attempt to straighten out confused views and illuminate the enveloping darkness. However, their Prophet understood very well the character of the Children of Israel; they are not yet worthy to uphold these noble values without help. They were on the verge of war, so something extraordinary was needed to stir their hearts, restore their trust, and strengthen their beliefs.(Rambe 2018)

As explained in verse 248, the arrival of the Ark was an important sign for the Children of Israel. Historically, the Children of Israel were expelled from their holy land by the Amaliqah people, or the Palestinians, even though they had previously conquered the land under the leadership of the Prophet Yუსya' after a long period of wandering in the Plains, after the death of the Prophet Moses. In addition to being expelled from their land, this people also lost their sacred object—the Ark, a box that stored the relics of their prophets, especially from the families of the Prophet Moses and the Prophet Aaron. Some sources say that the Ark contained fragments of the revelation tablet that the Prophet Moses received on Mount Thur.(Rambe 2018)

Their prophet then showed a sign from Allah in the form of an extraordinary event that they could witness. The holy Ark along with its contents were carried by angels and placed by the Thalut's side, bringing peace to their hearts. Their Prophet also said, "Indeed, this sign is enough to prove that Allah has really chosen Thalut as leader, if you really believe."(Quthb 2000)

Thalut then organized his troops, consisting of those who were loyal to the obligation of jihad and did not break their promises to the Prophet from the beginning of the journey. In his speech, Thalut stated the requirements for the soldiers needed: "O my people, in this army that I have formed, there must not be joined by those who are still doubtful and not fully enthusiastic, those who are engaged but not yet married, or those whose hearts are still tied to trade matters."(Bey Arifin 1963)

After all these requirements were met, a disciplined army was formed and ready to fight against Jalut and his army, which according to Qatadah was estimated to number around 80,000 men,[20] This army consisted of people with steadfastness and a burning spirit, ready to control their personal desires and wishes. They were warriors who were able to face hardships and suffering, suppress personal needs, and prioritize obedience in order to carry out their duties and responsibilities. The army was prepared to go through test after test. The leader who had been chosen for them, Thalut, felt the need to test the steadfastness and patience of his soldiers. To that end, he set certain tests, at a time when they were feeling thirsty, in order to distinguish those who were patient and committed to fighting from those who were more concerned with their own safety and might retreat at critical moments.(Rambe 2018)

Thalut's premonition proved correct. When his troops arrived at a river located between Jordan and Palestine, which had a very fast flowing flow, they found themselves in the middle of a dry and barren desert. In a very thirsty condition, they finally drank the water of the river until they were satisfied and their thirst was quenched. Although Thalut initially allowed them to drink, he only limited them to scooping enough water to quench their thirst. However, most of the soldiers violated this order and drank as much as they could, except for 4,000 men who remained disciplined, steadfast, and obedient to his orders. The majority, about 76,000 men, rebelled, drinking water excessively, so that they felt full and were unable to continue the journey.(Rambe 2018)

Thalut continued his journey accompanied only by his small remaining troops, but remained faithful and loyal to face Jalut. At that moment, they proved the truth of the saying, "How much a small group can defeat a large group." This is a small group but has full confidence in meeting Allah, who rely on their patience and faith in facing this test, and believe that Allah is always with those who are patient, steadfast, and have firm belief. They pray, asking Allah to grant them patience, steadfastness, belief, and His help in facing their disbelieving enemies, as stated in verse 251.

There is no doubt in the heart, no doubt in the view, and no doubt about the truth of the goal and the clarity of the path they are taking. Victory is ultimately given by Allah to warriors who are brave and persistent in fighting on the right path. Although the Thalut troops were small and appeared weak, they ultimately succeeded in defeating the Jalut army which was much larger and appeared to be very strong.(Abdullah Gymnastiar 2003)

### **Characteristics of Generation Z**

Generation Z, also known as the digital generation, is the generation born between 1990 and 2010 and grew up in a rapidly developing technological environment, making them highly dependent on technology. They are accustomed to various digital devices and applications, which influence their behavior and personality.(Adityara and Rakhman 2019) Although this generation has many advantages, there are also disadvantages, such as a lack of verbal communication skills. They are generally less patient and tend to like things that are fast or instant. Also called "Generation Net" or "Generation Z", this generation has similarities with Generation Y, but is more identified with the internet because of their ability to do many activities simultaneously.(Suwarno and dkk 2018)

According to David Stillman in his book entitled "Generation Z: Understanding the Characteristics of the New Generation that Will Change the World of Work", Generation Z has several unique characteristics and traits as follows:

1. **Figital:** Generation Z will bring new things into the world work environment, something that did not exist in previous generations. They will combine physical and digital aspects in the way they interact, live, and work, by utilizing platforms such as Skype, Line, and WhatsApp.
2. **Hyper-Customization:** Generation Z tends to continuously customize their identity and personalize it in order to be widely recognized. Their ability to adapt to all of this builds the expectation that their behavior and desires are well understood.
3. **Realistic:** Generation Z has faced major crises from an early age, which has shaped their mindset to be more pragmatic in planning and preparing for the future.
4. **FOMO:** Generation Z is very worried about being left behind. They always trying to be at the forefront of following trends and competition. However, the downside is that they often feel anxious if they are not moving fast enough or feel they are not on the right track.
5. **Weconomist:** Examples like Gojek and Airbnb show that Gen Z grew up in a world that is familiar with the concept of the sharing economy. This generation is pushing companies to separate internal and external parts in order to work in a more efficient and cost-effective way. Gen Z leverages the power of "we" in their role as philanthropists. They also expect partnerships with their superiors to fix the wrongs they see in the world. As many as 93% of Gen Z choose to work for companies that contribute positively to society.
6. **DIY (Do It Your Self): Yourself:** Some of us might agree that

The “do it yourself” approach can make things faster and more efficient. This is also true for Gen Z, who grew up with the internet, especially YouTube, which allowed them to learn to do almost everything themselves. Gen Z is very independent and often clashes with the collective culture that Millennials previously upheld. For them, the principle is, “If you want it done right, do it yourself.”

7. Driven : Gen Z believes in the concept of winners and losers. The recession that rocked the previous generation and the rapid pace of change that is difficult to keep up with have made Gen Z a motivated and highly ambitious generation.(David and Stillman 2018)

## Theory of Implementation of Educational Values

1. Implementation of the Value of Courage

*Moral and Spiritual Courage:* The courage taught in the Thalut story is courage based on faith and belief in Allah. Generation Z can implement this moral courage in everyday life by facing life's challenges, for example by voicing the truth and honest statements, even though they face risks.

*Courage to Face Challenges:* Thalut and his troops, although small, faced Jalut's larger army. For generation Z, this courage can be applied in modern forms of resistance such as social pressure or threats to careers with a sense of confidence and calm.(Rodhiyah et al. 2022)

2. Implementation of Leadership Values

*Leadership Based on Quality Not Status:* Thalut's story emphasizes that effective leadership is based on personal qualities, not social status. This value teaches Generation Z to judge people based on ability and integrity, not popularity or wealth.

*Maintaining Integrity and Justice:* As a leader, Thalut showed integrity in leading his troops. Generation Z can implement this value by maintaining honesty in daily interactions and prioritizing fairness in decision making.

3. Implementation of the Value of Firm Faith

*Iman Sebagai Faith as a Source of Calm:* Thalut's story shows that steadfastness of faith can be a source of calm in the face of a great enemy. Generation Z can implement these values in stressful or pressured situations by relying on faith and prayer.

*Avoiding Harmful Actions:* This value also teaches us not to be easily influenced by temptations that can harm ourselves or others, to avoid useless content, and to choose an environment that supports steadfast faith.

4. Implementation of Wisdom Values

*Learning from Challenges:* Thalut's story teaches that every challenge and test can be faced wisely, and that wisdom can be learned from every experience. Generation Z can apply this by developing a mindset to always learn from every challenge, such as facing failure with reflection and self- development.

*Creativity and Adaptation:* Thalut's leadership in facing Jalut shows how creativity and adaptation are the keys to winning a seemingly impossible battle. Thalut not only relying on physical strength, but also using ingenuity in developing effective strategies. This is relevant in the context of education and leadership, especially for Generation Z who live in an era of rapid and unpredictable change.

## Conclusion

The story of Thalut and Jalut provides deep insight into the importance of moral courage, quality-based leadership, steadfast faith and wisdom. This lesson is especially relevant for Generation Z, who face unique challenges in the digital age. Moral courage based on faith in God is the main lesson from this story.

Generation Z can develop this courage to face various challenges, such as social pressure, internal conflict, or career challenges. The courage to uphold principles amidst negative influences is also an important value that can be applied in everyday life.

This story emphasizes that true leadership is not based on social status or wealth, but on integrity, wisdom, and fairness. Generation Z is taught to judge leaders based on personal qualities, not just popularity or wealth. In addition, they are also encouraged to develop personal leadership that is fair, honest, and responsible, both in personal and professional life.

The steadfastness of faith shown by Thalut and his troops is an example of spiritual strength that provides calm in the face of pressure. Generation Z can implement this value by strengthening spiritual connections through worship, reflection and prayer. Strong faith becomes a source of strength to overcome stress, anxiety and uncertainty.

The wisdom of this story teaches the importance of learning from challenges and failures. Generation Z is encouraged to develop creativity and adaptability in facing a changing world. With

emulating Thalut's ingenuity in dealing with Jalut, Generation Z can learn to see opportunities in difficulties and make wise decisions.

Overall, the values in the story of Thalut and Jalut offer applicable guidelines for Generation Z to overcome the challenges of the modern era without losing Islamic principles. By applying courage, moral leadership, steadfast faith and wisdom, Generation Z can become individuals who are tough, creative and have high morals in facing the dynamics of life.

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