

## A Malay account of conversion to Christianity, Singapore, mid-late 19th century

[Peringatan sahaya bergerak]

British Library, Or. 4942, f. 229

[p.1] Bahwa ini peringatan sahaya. Awal mula sahaya yang mendengar pelajaran tuan kutika sahaya datang ka ruma tuan waktu pukul empat, suda itu bertemu dengan tuan duduk di tempat Pak Cakat[?], suda itu mengajar tuan kepada sahaya serta tuan membuka kitab Injil Tuhan diajarkan kepada sahaya, suda itu abis mengajar tuan kepada sahaya pulang sahaya sampai ka ruma sahaya berpikirlah sahaya belum bergerak.<sup>1</sup> Abis lain hari sahaya datang lagi ka ruma tuan, mengajarlah tuan kepada sahaya serta dengan kaum<sup>2</sup> sekalian yang berhimpun di dalam ruma tuan, abis mengajar tuan kepada sahaya pulang sahaya sampai ka ruma sahaya berpikir pula, belum juga. Lain hari datang pula ka ruma tuan mengajar kepada sahaya, abis mengajar tuan kepada sahaya, pulang sahaya sampai ka ruma berpikir pula, serta sahaya berbandingkan dengan sahaya punya kitab Melayu, mana yang betul kitab Melayu dengan kitab Injil tuhan Isa, suda itu sahaya abis berpikir serta berbanding agama orang <itam> dengan puti, belum juga sahaya bergerak. Abis datang lagi sahaya ka ruma, tuan mengajar kepada sahaya, tuan abis mengajar kepada sahaya tuan sahaya pulang sampai ka ruma, sahaya berpikir pula serta berbanding dengan sahaya punya kitab, kembali datang Encik Amat mengajar [p.2] kepada sahaya serta kasi harti kepada sahaya jalan tuhan, belum juga sahaya bergerak.

Abis lain hari datang lagi Encik Amat ~~datang lagi~~ mengajar kepada sahaya<sup>2</sup> [, sahaya] lawan basoal Encik Amat, sebab sahaya lawan basoal, “Encik Amat orang itam, apa sebab Encik Amat suka mengikut agamanya orang puti?”. “Aku sebab suka mengikut agama orang puti dari kecil sampai besar, mengikut agamanya orang Melayu tiada dapat kebajikan, melainkan kajahatan yang didapatkan.” Abis sahaya datang<sup>2</sup> lagi ka ruma tuan, mengajar tuan kepada sahaya, abis tuan mengajar kepada sahaya pulang sahaya ka ruma berpikir pula, kembali datang Encik Amat kepada sahaya punya ruma, abis duduk empat lima orang serta kasi <harti>, dua tiga kali yang kasi <harti> kepada sahaya, baru sahaya ada perasaan bergerak kepada tuhan.

Abis Encik Amat lagi waktu pukul lima mengajar pula kepada sahaya, abis sahaya pikir pula dengan sahaya punya kaum<sup>2</sup>, serta berbanding pula kitab sahaya dengan kitab Injil tuhan Isa, abis sahaya berbanding baru sahaya bergerak. Sebab sahaya bergerak betul tuan yang mengajar kepada sahaya jalan akhirat, itulah mula<sup>2</sup> sahaya [p.3] bergerak kepada agamanya tuhan, sebab sahaya <bergerak> kepada tuhan Isa menunjukkan jalan terang. Jikalau bagini sahaya yang mengikut kepada agamanya orang Melayu tiada dapat kebajikan melainkan kejahatan sahaja, baru sahaya sekarang ini yang berasa dari pasal dosa kepada Allah sekalian banyaknya sahaya punya <dosa>, jikalau bagini sahaya yang mengikut agamanya orang Melayu dari kecil sampai besar waktu dosa sahaja yang dikerjakan sekarang ini, sahaya selamanya mendengar pelajaran tuan baru sahaya tahu sahaya punya diri sekalian banyaknya sahaya punya dosa kepada <Allah>. Dan lagi tuan malam Khamis datang lagi kepada sahaya punya ruma Kampung Boyan jam pukul tujuh, suda itu mengajarlah <tuan> kepada kaum<sup>2</sup> sahaya sekalian yang berhimpun dalam sahaya punya ruma, suda itu abis mengajar tuan kepada sahaya pulang, sahaya pikir pula, tuan yang mengajar kepada sahaya pelajaran kitab Injil tuhan Isa al-Masih banyak betul, itu sebab sahaya bergerak kepada agamanya tuhan Isa.

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<sup>1</sup> b.r.k.r.?

<sup>2</sup> d.t.y.ng.

*Sebermula sahaya yang bergerak kepada agamanya tuhan kutika tuan datang kepada sahaya punya ruma, abis mengajar tuan kepada kaum2 sahaya, abis tuan mengajar pulang sahaya tidur serta berpikir dari pasal pelajaran tuan, abis datang orang tuah2 kasih harti kepada sahaya, kata [p.4]/ kata orang tuah2 itu, “Baiklah engkau mengikut aga(ma) Tuhan supaya jangan kena percobaan dalam dunia.” Itulah sekarang sahaya digerakkan ole Tuhan, melainkan sahaya sekarang ini bergantung kepada Isa al-Masih selama2 kepada hari kemudian. Inilah sahaya sekarang ini sahaya tiada dua tiga tempat sahaya bergantung atau bergendang b.r.k.y.n.d.ng melainkan Tuhan Isa yang lepaskan sahaya punya dosa ini, itulah sahaya mintak doa siang dan malam kepada Tuhan Isa sahaja supaya dilepaskan percobaan sekalian <dalam> dunia, kerana tuhan Isa suda datang ka dunia ngelepaskan daripada segala orang daripada dosanya.*

### **['An account of my conversion']**

This is my story. The first time I heard your teachings was when I came to your house at four o'clock. I next encountered you when we were sitting around at Pak Cakat's place. Another time you preached to me, and opened the Lord's Gospel and explained it to me; after that teaching session I went home and thought it over, but I was not yet stirred. On another occasion I came again to your house, where you preached to me and the others gathered in your house, and after your lesson I returned home and thought about it, but still I was not yet persuaded. Another day I came again to your house when you were teaching, after which I returned home and thought about it, and I compared the teachings with my own books in Malay, and pondered as to which were true, the Malay books or the Gospel of Jesus, and then I thought and compared the religion of the dark-skinned people with the white man's religion, but I was still not moved. And then I came again to your house, you preached to me, and after you had taught me I returned home, and thought about the difference with what was in my own books, and then Encik Amat came to give me a lesson, and to explain to me the meaning of the way of God, but I was still not persuaded.

Another day Enik Amat came again to teach me, and I challenged Encik Amat, and questioned him, 'Encik Amat, you are dark skinned, so why do you embrace the religion of the white man?' 'The reason I follow the white man's religion is that I have done so all my life, for the religion of the Malays offers no benefits, and on the contrary brings only evil.' And so I came again to your house, and you preached to me, and then I went home and thought it over, and again Encik Amat came to my house, where about four or five of us were gathered, and explained various things, this happened two or three times, and only then did I feel a stirring towards God.

When Encik Amat came at five o'clock to teach me, and I considered the matter with my brethren, and compared my own books with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus, and only after comparing thus was I really persuaded. The real reason I was convinced was because of your teaching about the path to redemption, that was the start of my conversion to the religion of God, because I turned towards Jesus Christ in heading for the way of light. For if this was indeed the case, I who had embraced the religion of the Malays would not attain salvation but rather face ruin, and it was only thus that I became aware of my sins before God, and how great my sins were, and therefore I who followed the religion of the Malays all my life had been sinning all this time, and it was only through listening to your teachings that I realised how enormous were my sins before God. And on that Wednesday night you came to my house in Kampung Boyan at seven o'clock, and preached to all my brethren gathered in my house, and after you had gone home I realised all the lessons you had taught me from the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Saviour were true, and that is how I moved to the religion of Jesus Christ.

The moment of my conversion to the religion of God was when you came to my house, and after you had finished teaching my brethren and had gone home, I went to bed and fell asleep thinking about all your lessons, and a very old man came to me and explained matters to me, and the very old man said, "You should embrace the religion of God so that you will not fall into the temptations of this world". That is how I was converted by God, and from now on all my trust is in Jesus the Saviour for the rest of my days. And for now there is nowhere else for me to place my trust or seek refuge save for Jesus Christ who has freed me from my sins, and so I pray day and night to Lord Jesus alone to save me from all the temptations of this world, because the Lord Jesus came to the world to free all the people from their sins.

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