

## ORIENTALISM ISSUE IN *THE WARRIOR'S WAY* MOVIE

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### Abstract

The Warrior's Way movie presents both of East and West. The East is represented by the group of ninjas named Sad Flute and The West is represented by the inhabitants of Lode Paris of West. In this movie ninjas play a role as assassins whose duty is to kill enemy in order to reach their ambition to the strongest clan. One day, one of Sad Flute ninjas named Yang did a great mistake by saving son of the enemy. Yang then escaped to Lode Paris of West. In this foreign place for Yang as an Eastern, he is treated well by Western people. There differences between Yang's original land and the city, he escapes are clearly seen. The distinction establishes an issue of Orientalism how *The Warrior's Way* movie portrays East and West through characters and settings. This study analyzes this phenomenon by applying Post-Colonial theoretical lens. Meanwhile, Orientalism approach is used to explain how East and West are portrayed in the movie. The method of this study is descriptive qualitative by conducting library research. As a result, this study finds that the distinction between the portrayal of East and West in this movie emphasizes primitiveness, and despotism of East besides the democratic of West. In addition the study also finds East-West binary opposition to emphasize the distinction between them.

**Keywords:** east, west, postcolonial, orientalism.

### A. INTRODUCTION

Literature is a work of art. It is always possible to catch people's interest. Abrams argues that, "literature is applied to a number of works in drama and prose fiction, which have common view that the human condition is essentially absurd, and this condition can be adequately represented only work of literature that are themselves absurd (2009: 1)". There are some kinds of literary works such as prose, poetry, short story, and drama. Each work has its own aesthetic values that catch people's interest. Literary work not only comes with aesthetic form, it also exists as the reflection of human life.

Drama is one of many kinds of literary works. According to *Oxford Advance Learner's dictionary* drama is "a play for the theater, radio or television (1995: 351)". In the modern era, the development of science and technology brings many changes. Today, drama comes with a new package called movie. It is the new version of drama. Movie tells a story by providing moving pictures and sounds and this makes it more interesting than other literary works. Movie with its features gives a clear depiction about the story. Similar with literature movie is often made as a reflection of human life.

As the reflection of human life, movie sometimes is made based on the true story. The *Black Hawk Down*, the movie that is released in 2001 for instance, this movie is made based on the true story about American soldiers who are delegated to a city in Somalia named Mogadishu in 1993 (<http://www.movie.co.id/black-hawk-down> 25/03/16). Their duty is to arrest an Islamic leader, Muhammad Farah Aidid. Unfortunately, this mission is failed because in fact Aidid's armies have well preparation to face this burnt. This movie makes American government shocked since it is out of their approximation. Thus, it proves that movie can be made as the reflection of human life.

Movie has many genres such as; horror, love, and action. Among these genres action movie is one of the genres which require certain skills and it is not an easy movie to be produced. According to Jose Arroyo, it is because an action movie is contemporary attracted little in the way of prestige. It is associated with the emergence of the blockbuster and high concept movie making (as cited in Tasker, 2004:1). Then, in producing action movie, it is

needed to consider the concept of movie making. In the other hand, when an action movie aims to show arguments, based on Tasker, it is divided into three generic grouping. They are; crime and urban action, science-fiction and war (Tasker, 2004: 4). Those three categories are “differing perspective on key components of actions cinema such as the articulation of identity through discourse of gender, race, class and nation, the heroic body and violence (Tasker, 2004: 4)”.

Discussing about action movie, *The Warrior's Way* is a movie which presents two different races and both races have a complicated relationship in fact. This movie was supervised by a Korean man named Sngmoo Lee. It was published in 2010. *The Warrior's Way* tells about an Eastern ninja who runs away from his native place – East - to Lode Paris of West – a part of Western city. As mentioned before this movie presents two races; East and West, however they are presented differently. Thus, it raises an issue about relationship between East and West. The relationship between East and West is domination relationship since European colonialisms have affected many regions all over the world (Hamadi, 2014:39).

## B. THEORETICAL APPROACH

### 1. Orientalism Theory

The development of Western imperialism leads them to claim themselves as having authority to speak everything about East. This is because Western begins to study about East – Orient - such as; its culture, history, and language. Western people “who teaches, writes about, or researches the Orient – and this applies whether the person is an anthropologist, sociologist, ..... - either in its specific or its general aspect, is an Orientalist (Said, 2003: 2)”. Orientalist then constructs the images of Orient in its own way that is called Orientalism. This thought started to develop from Napoleon expansion to Egypt in Eighteenth century. Western – in this case England – as the colonizer speaks for describing Egyptian. This is because Western has the knowledge about it. Having knowledge means knowing about it deeply, more than the object itself. In this case, Balfour said that “to have such knowledge of such thing is to dominate it, to have authority over it (as cited in Said, 2003: 32)”.

Orientalists try to construct images of East. In this case, *The Warrior's Way* as an action movie presents both of Eastern and Western people with their setting and social condition. As what has been discussed before, movie can have a purpose to show an idea or argument. The portrayal of East and West in *The Warrior's Way* movie is a good discussion since it raises an issue on Orientalism. The discussion can explain how the movie portrays the condition of East and West through their characters and settings.

According to Said, “orientalism is a style of thought based upon an ontological and epistemological distinction made between “the orient” and (the most time) “the occident” (as cited in Hamadi, 2014: 40). A western person who studies about East is called Orientalist. Based on Said argument in terms of Orientalism, the words Orient and Occident are always related to East and West. In this case Said argues that, “there is real analogy for taking fixed, more or less total geographical position toward a wide variety of social, linguistic, political, and historical.....but Orientalism is a field with considerable geographical ambition (2003: 50).” From the argument above it can be understood that geographical region of the Orient and the Occident is an imaginative geographic.

Edward W Said is the Professor of Columbia University who stands against orientalism ideology. He criticizes Orientalists' thought in his phenomenal book *Orientalism* in 1978. That is because Orientalists try to establish some images of the Orient that they are “stressing the sensuality, primitiveness and despotism of the East underlined the rational and democratic qualities of the West” (Carter, 2006: 116). In the other hand Said tells that there are three usages of the term Orientalism;

Firstly, it refers to the long period of cultural and political relations between Europe and Asia. Secondly, the term is used to refer to the academic study of oriental languages and culture which dates from the early nineteen century. And thirdly, it is used to refer to the stereotypical views of the orient developed by many generation of western writers and scholars, with their prejudice views of Orientals in inherently criminal and deceitful (Carter, 2006: 116).

The term Orientalism has a tight relation to the Post-Colonial theory. The Post-Colonial theory is a term that refers to ideological discourse about the revolution of colonized countries. This movement comes against imperialism. Post-Colonial theory examines how the concept of imperialism is depicted in the literature and media. Hence, movie as one of popular media is an effective way to share Western imperial concept.

## 2. Film Theory

To understand imperial concept in the movie, people need to consider the language of film in the film theory. According to Villarejo, "in the late nineteen century film has been a dynamic medium, put to use other than those of the commercial narrative form (2007: 23)". There are two important aspects in analyzing a scene in the movie; Mise-en-scene and cinematography.

Mise-en-scene is as the world of movie because it supposes to make movie such a real life. It has six components such as; setting, lighting, costume, hair, make-up, and figure behavior. Those components are needed to make the film is like a real life. Beside mise-en-scene, another aspect that is not less important to help the analysis of movie is cinematography. Cinematography refers to what to do with camera when it shoots an object. Camera distance, camera angle, and camera's movements belong to cinematography (Villarejo, 2007: 36). In the cinematography there is framing technique to notice what elements are included or excluded in the camera.

In this case, Villarejo points that "film analysis has evolved an anthropocentric taxonomy for describing distance, that is, using the human body as the reference point for each designation:

- a. The extreme long shot (ESL), in which one can barely distinguish the human figure;
- b. The long shot (LS), in which humans are distinguishable but remain small by the background;
- c. The medium long shot (MLS), in which the human is framed from the knees up;
- d. The medium shot (MS), in which the audience moves slightly to frame the human from the waist up;
- e. The medium close-up (MCU), in which the audience are slightly closer and see human from the chest up;
- f. The close-up (CU), which isolates a portion of a human;
- g. The extreme close-up (ECU), in which the audiences see a mere portion of the face (2007: 38)."

## C. DISCUSSION

Considering the theories above, there are distinctions in the portrayal of East and West in *The Warrior's Way* movie. First, East depicts as a primitive person in the character of Yang. The thing he learns in Lode Paris of West shows his primitiveness. Below are some facts in the movie which proves the primitiveness.

### a. Music Introduction

A flaxen haired woman, Lynne is a woman with broken childhood memories. Her whole families are killed by a group of destroyer when she was very young. Hence, she is very ambitious in mastering swords to revenge to the colonel who has killed her family. She learns swords with Smiley – Yang's friend – but Smiley then goes away. This makes Lynne closer to Yang because she needs to learn sword.

It is not only Yang who has taught sword to Lynne, in other hand Lynne also teaches Yang something he has never known before. In the night when Yang is walking around her house with April in his hand, he hears sound from her house. Unfortunately, April makes a noise and Lynne knows. Lynne asks him to come in and listens the music;

LYNNE. Sound even better inside. You ever seen one of these before? The sound it's making it's called "opera" (*The Warrior's Way*, 00:15:49 → 00:16:08)





Fig. 3.1 Lynne introduced Yang a music called "opera"

To explain this point, it is needed to focus to the setting of the scene. The scene is not taken in the natural world but it is a studio making. According to Villarejo, a studio making is the setting in which every variable of it such as sound and light can be calculated to create the necessary effect (2007: 30). The position of each character in this scene is good. Lynne is standing beside the opera to introduce it and Yang is sitting almost in front of Lynne to be introduced. This represents the concept of giving knowledge from one person to other.

#### b. Laundry Man

The night in the first day Yang's arrival to the city, he is calming the crying April. Lynne comes along quietly and attacks Yang. After knowing he is Smiley's friend Lynne asks him to continue Smiley's laundry;

LYNNE. Smiley, like, your uncle or something?

YANG. Friend

LYNNE. Well, if you were his friend, maybe he would like for you to take over his laundry."

YANG. Do not know how.

LYNNE. So I'll teach you. (*The Warrior's Way*, 00:11:14 → 00:11:27)

From the dialogue above, it can be understood that Yang does not know how to wash. It can be two possibilities; he has never washed as long as living in his origin or he cannot wash because he has never washed with those tools in the laundry. In fact Lynne teaches him how to wash and take over the laundry.

#### c. Cards Play

EIGHT BALL. You win. Show me what you got. Goddamn, I should've never taught you this game. (*The Warrior's Way*, 00:19:38 → 00:19:48)

Yang is like a plain paper in the Lode Paris of West, he does not know many things there. From the dialogue above, this can be understood that Yang wins the game and Eight Ball disappoints for teaching him the game. This is one of things he learns in the West that Eight Ball has taught him playing the cards. In the picture bellow Yang is calmly playing cards without any difficulties.



Fig. 3.3 Yang and Eight Ball are playing cards

By applying the medium close up technique, this picture describes clearly the figure of Yang and Eight Ball. It shows their faces expression. From the picture, it is seen that there is no expression in Yang face while Eight Ball seems serious looks at his cards. In this case, Yang can enjoy playing cards since he has never played before.

#### d. Valuable Things

Besides the skills which are explained before, Yang also learns valuable things of life that could make his life meaningful. Those values of life are getting dirty thing clean, joy of losing, working with people, enjoying sunset and feeling the pleasure of growing something than destroying it. In the script, the narrator says as follows:

NARRATOR. The warrior began to learn stuff he should've learned a long time ago. (*The Warrior's Way*, 00:17:04 → 00:17:09)

Of getting dirty things clean. (*The Warrior's Way*, 00:17:26 → 00:17:28)

He also learned the joy of losing. (*The Warrior's Way*, 00:17:53 → 00:17:56)

He learned you could be happy working with folks. (*The Warrior's Way*, 00:18:09 → 00:18:12)

And he found that it's nice to have a few friends around when the sun goes down. But most of all, the warrior learned there's a heck of a lot more pleasure making things grow than there is in cutting them down." (*The Warrior's Way*, 00:18:53 → 00:19:14)

The values he learns in *The Lode Paris of West* do a great change to Yang's life. Here, he finds happiness, calmness, and togetherness. Moreover he almost forgets about his ambition. He acts following his heart while it gives advantages to people. This fact portrays that West is better than East even in the human relationship. Those values seem unfamiliar for Yang. His response when he learns those things describes that he has never known it before. This condition represents the primitiveness of Yang as Eastern people, because according to Said that the Orient, the East or "them" is strange (2003: 44).

Second, another image of East which appears in *The Warrior Way* movie is its Despotism. It is occurs in the character of Saddest Flute or the leader of Sad Flute clan. The followings are the explanations of despotism as seen in the Saddest Flute's acts.

#### a. The Killed Father

When Yang was child, his father who was working in the field was killed by a swordsman. The swordsman did not have an urgent reason to kill Yang's father. It was just a try for his sword. In the dialogue it can be found as follows:

YANG. My father was working in the field. I was helping him. A swordsman came.....he killed my father. Just to test his sword. (*The Warrior's Way* 00: 28 :22 – > 00:28:42)

This speech constructs a meaning of sadness. Yang's last sentence represents his sadness when his father is killed. The language used in the dialogue stands to represent the sadness in Yang's self. It is supported by the scene when he is telling the story to Lynne bellow;



Fig. 3.4 Yang is telling his past to Lynne

In the framing technique it is a medium close up (MCU), that the camera shot focuses slightly the human from the chest up (Villarejo, 2003: 38). This shot focuses to Yang's face to emphasize the sadness appears in his eyes and face. Not only being sad, Yang also is disappointed with his father for having no power to avoid the swordsman. This is seen the dialogue bellow;

LYNNE. That must hurt you.

YANG. Not hurt...

LYNNE. Of course you were.

YANG. I was angry to my father. (*The Warrior's Way* 00: 28: 46 → 00: 28: 55)

The death of the father surely makes him sad. However this very deep sadness becomes disappointment. Yang is disappointed with the weakness of his father who does

nothing for saving his own life. Thus, he decides to join Sad Flute ninja to be strong, unlike his father. What the swordsman does to Yang's father describes the power of authority or position in the East. In the past, the swordsman with his power and authority killed Yang's father without any reasons while little Yang could not do anything.

#### b. Joining Sad Flute Ninja

Yang's father was killed. His sadness, anger, and disappointment have led him to follow the man who takes care of him. He is the teacher and the leader of Sad Flute clan. Yang learns things during his life with the teacher. He learns to make the hearth as the biggest enemy, to be an assassin, and to achieve his ambition to be the strongest swordsman in the East. The concept of Eastern despotism is also seen in the role of Saddest as Yang's master. Bellow are the acts in the movie which explains how despotism concept work in the character of Saddest Flute:

##### 1. The Biggest Enemy

Yang was very young when his father was killed. He joins Sad Flute clan to learn sword and to be strong. Saddest Flutes – the leader of Sad Flutes clan – places Yang in the dark room and leaves him alone. His teacher gives him a little puppy to be his only friend and asks him to take care of it. Yang is happy for having a friend with him but later Saddest Flute commands him to kill it. Like what appears in the pictures bellow;



Fig. 3.5 Yang is given a puppy by the teacher



Fig. 3.6 The teacher commands Yang to kill the puppy

In the first picture (fig. 3.2) little Yang is happy to get a present from his teacher. The picture uses the medium long shot (MLS) which shoots the human from the knees up (Villarejo, 2003: 38). It is used to show the happiness of little Yang. His hands are touching the puppy softly. It represents his affection to it. Besides, little smile in his lips and light in the eyes represent happiness for having a friend.

In contrary, in the second picture the teacher commands little Yang to kill his only friend - the puppy. This is because Yang loves the puppy. Hence, the teacher regards it as enemy. For the teacher, love in the heart of human is the hardest enemy as seen in the dialogue bellow;

SADDEST FLUTE. Your heart will become your biggest enemy. You must kill your biggest enemy. (*The Warrior's Way* 1:24:31 → 1:24:40)

The teacher's statement represents that Yang grows without love. That to be strong is to loss the sense of loving others. Yang's life is full of doctrine to kill and get ambition to be strong. This picture is a Medium Close-Up (MCU) that Saddest Flute is shot from the chest up to emphasize his firm expression clearly.



## 2. An Assassin

Yang's life in this period deals with his childhood. In the childhood, he was educated harshly by the teacher – Saddest Flute. He was educated and exercised to be an assassin. It is because the teacher saw that he was potential for being a great swordsman and it was useful for the clan. The teacher exercises Yang very hard to create him to be an assassin with great ability in using sword.



Fig. 3.8 Yang's hand bleeding

SADDEST FLUTE. You have the perfect body for an assassin. The heart of priest. (*The Warrior's Way* 1:24:20 – 1:24:26)

Picture 3.7 presents Yang's condition while he is exercising sword. He looks weak but the teacher still commands him to continue exercise. This scene uses the long shot (LS) technique of framing which the figures are distinguishable but they remain dwarfed by the background. It is used to distinguish the figure of Yang and the teacher. Yang's figure as the central focus creates the effect of weakness however the teacher figure is also important because he is the speaker in this scene. The picture represents savageness in the teacher's self. Yang's condition represents the concept of a weak man; falling body, tiring eyes, and breathing breathlessly. This condition does not make the teacher pity to Yang. He forces Yang to stand up harshly. Thus, it shows that Yang's life in the East is horrible.

To create Yang to be an assassin, the teacher not only exercises him hardly but also convinces him to destroy everything he loves.

SADDEST FLUTE. We are assassins. All that we love we will destroy. You are assassin. All that you love you will destroy. (*The Warrior's Way* 1:24:57 – 1:25:32)

The dialogue above represents the concept of an assassin in the East by the figure of Saddest Flute. It means that an assassin is a savage who kills enemy brutally, with no affection in the heart, and with full of ambitions. As long as his life with Saddest Flute, Yang has grown in cruel atmosphere. Thus, he becomes the real assassin with dead heart. He spends all his life to fight the enemy to reach his ambition to be strong.

## 3. The Great Ambition

Growing up among ninjas, exercising swords, and fighting the enemies are all Yang experiences in the East. He then finally becomes the great ninja, a ninja with empty eyes and died heart.



Fig. 3.9 The ninja with empty eyes and died heart

In the movie one day he defeated almost all of enemies successfully. Unfortunately he lost the chance to kill the last enemy by saving the baby of the enemy. The picture emphasizes Yang's empty eyes with a medium close up (MCU) shot. It frames Yang from the chest up to make his emptiness and ambition appears clearly in his eyes. The picture represents how Yang's life as a ninja is very bad.

The phenomenon above shows what horrible the life of ninjas in the East is. Growing up among ninjas with horrible condition, Yang becomes one of Sad Flute ninjas. Yang spent his life to gain the ambition to be strong. It is an empty life he spends as long as his life in the East.

The explanation about Yang's life in the East above is used to show the absolute leadership of his master – Saddest Flute. The command of the master is like the command of God among Sad Flute ninjas. Member of clan must obey the master and they cannot refuse it. They are not allowed to follow their own willingness. Saddest Flute's leadership style represents Eastern style. That is the absolute leadership style which the king roles his people like a God. Nobody is even brave to refuse his command and it is like the style of pharaoh in leading Egypt. He conducts an absolute leadership. This is how this movie implicitly describes the despotism of East.

In contrast with East, West portrays as a democratic figure who has a good attitude and acts. Democracy, according to Oxford Advance learner's Dictionary is "thought of as allowing freedom of speech, religion and political opinion (1995: 309)", while democratic is the adjective of democracy that means "based on the principle of democracy (Oxford, 1995: 309)". In Orientalism term, Orientalist qualifies West as the democratic people who support freedom to everybody. Balfour and Cromer as an Orientalist qualify West – or in this case European – as rational, virtuous, and mature (Said, 2003: 40).

Thus, based on these qualities, the democratic of West can be seen by their personal attitude. West who support the freedom of people will not discriminate others. This quality occurs in the movie from the attitude of Eight Ball who always helps Yang although he is different, strange, and does not know anything. Eight Ball is one of the inhabitants of Lode Paris of West. He is a nice and friendly man. From Yang's first arrival in the Lode Paris of West he has been nice to Yang. He does many things to help him and often spends the time with him. Here are some evidences of Eight Ball's kindness to Yang.

#### a. Nice Greeting

After having a long voyage Yang arrives in a small district with 500 populations. It is named Lode Paris of West. The population is a group of circus who leave it for certain times. There are a lot of circus equipments with a bad condition. When Yang comes, everyone looks at him strangely. It is because Yang is different from them. In his first arrival to this place Yang has gotten a trouble with Ronald the drunkard man. It does not take too long for Eight Ball – the small creature man – comes and mediates them.

RONALD. Hey Jhonny. I don't like your stinking face.

EIGHT BALL. Easy Ronald. The name's Eight Ball, like in the game, good luck for some, bad luck for others. How can I assist you, my friend from the mystical East? (*The Warrior's Way* 00:08:01 → 00:08:20)

The dialogue above presents how Eight Ball is friendly to Yang, he even welcomes him politely. Not only from the dialogue, his gesture also represents a good manner of him.

#### b. The Guidance

When Eight Ball sees the picture which Yang gives him, he guides him to Smiley's house.

EIGHT BALL. Haven't been here since Smiley kicked the bucket, was a three-day wait just to get your shirt pressed. (*The Warrior's Way* 08:29 → 08:36)





Fig. 3.11 Yang and Eight Ball in Smiley's house

This picture is a long shot technique that makes the human figures distinguishable but looks smaller to the background. In the picture, Yang looks the surrounding place – laundry – innocently. Besides, Eight Ball brings baby April and guides him fluently. The picture shows that Eight Ball stands in front of Yang. His dialogue shows that he is guiding Yang. In the other hand, Yang looks unfamiliar with what he finds in this place.

For a stranger Yang does not know anything about this place. Hence, Eight Ball kindly treats him well and guide him to Smiley's house so let him stay there. It is very different treatment due to his life in the East. Thus, once more Western is presented by a worth act through the figure of Eight Ball.

Eight Ball's kindness to Yang in this movie represents democratic quality of West. Although Yang is an Eastern, he does him well. In this movie Eight Ball always helps Yang in everything he does. From Eight Ball's attitude this movie represents Western as a democratic man who respects the diversity and freedom. Hence, it is useful for Orientalists who try to establish a good quality of West however in Said's orientalism criticism he argues that Orientalist's reality is antihuman and persistent (2003: 44) because their authority establishes the image of Orientals and ignores the fact.

#### D. CONCLUSION

The discussion finds that the movie portrays East and West differently through their characters and settings. Eastern people are portrayed with their primitiveness and despotism, while Western people portrayed with democratic quality. East primitiveness is seen from Yang's conditions in the Lode Paris of West. In the other hand, East despotism is presented by Saddest Flute leadership style. Besides, in this movie West are portrayed by the figure of Eight Ball and the native of Load Paris of West who are democratic for treating Yang well, an Eastern ninja. After understanding the portrayal of East and West in the Warrior's Way movie, it can be concluded that the movie contains an issue of Orientalism. It creates West as democratic people that make Western people look better than East who are just represented as primitive and despot. Thus, this message can be seen as an orientalism issue.

The gap happening between Western and Eastern creates a lot of damages, like what happened in the First and Second World War. Hence, as a religious society, every religion commands its followers to love and respect others. In the religion of Islam for instance, in the Holly Qur'an Allah mentions that differences are not disunion. It colors the world. People have only to keep their own and respect others. The diversity happens in the movie is possible to be united because of Allah's Will, like Allah says in Holy Qur'an

وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَجَعَلَكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَكِنْ يُضِلُّ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَلَتُسْأَلُنَّ عَمَّا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٣٠﴾

And in Allah had Willed, He could have made you [of] one religion, but He causes to stray whom He Wills and guides whom He Wills. And you will surely be questioned about what you used to do (An-Nahl:93) (Hilali and Khan)

Allah had made diversity in the world in order to make people know one another. This is written in the Holy Qur'an. It is written, He has created us (humans) male and female in different groups and races to see and learn one another. Thus nothing distinguishes people in front of Him, but their obedience to His command.

يَتَأَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْتَكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقْوَاهُ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ

حَبِيرٌ

O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted (Al-Hujurat: 13) (Hilali and Khan)

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