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WŁODZIMIERZ CIECIURA

Mahfudz Tremas

Kiai Haji **Mahfudz Tremas** (Mahfuz b. 'Abdallāh al-Tarmasī al-Jāwī, d. 1920) was one of the most respected Javanese scholars of his generation and probably the most influential. Born into a family of 'ulamā' (Muslim religious scholars) in

Tremas (Pacitan district, East Java), he spent most of his adult life in Mecca, studying with the major scholars of his day and later teaching numerous students, mostly from Java. Most of the men who came to lead major *pesantrens* (religious boarding schools) in Java in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries had studied at least one or two *kitab*s (Islamic texts) with Kiai Mahfudz during the sojourn in the Holy Cities that was considered an obligatory preparation for the aspiring *kiai* (religious scholar). He is said to be responsible for the inclusion of the canonical *ḥadīth* collections and *uṣūl al-fiqh* (principles of Islamic jurisprudence) amongst the works studied in the Javanese *pesantrens*, topics not previously studied there.

The *pesantren* of Tremas is probably the oldest such institution still functioning, and its seniority is generally recognised. It was established in 1830 by Mahfudz's paternal grandfather 'Abd al-Mannān (d. 1862), who descended from a high official at the Surakarta court and who had studied at the prestigious *pesantren* of Tegalsari, which trained religious officials at that court. 'Abd al-Mannān was succeeded by his son 'Abdallāh, who led the *pesantren* until his death, in 1894. Mahfudz, 'Abdallāh's eldest son, received his first religious education from his father and continued with the learned Ṣāliḥ b. 'Umar al-Samarānī (Kiai Saleh Darat, d. 1903) in Semarang, after which his father sent him and his younger brother Dimyāfī to Mecca to study with the prominent scholars of the day.

Mahfudz immersed himself in all the traditional sciences and attended the *ḥalqas* (study circles) of numerous 'ulamā' but became most closely attached to Sayyid Bakrī (Abū Bakr b. Muḥammad al-Shaṭṭā' al-Dimyāfī, d. 1893), Mecca's