The Thinking Process of Al Quran in Preventing Hoax

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Abstracts: This article explained the threat of hoax in social media towards Indonesia. Digital era is an era of the proliferation of information that every individual can convey information quickly and globally. The presence of global information certainly has side effects, both negative and positive effects. The example of positive effect is the teaching and learning process can still continue using online method during the covid-19 pandemic. The negative effect is there are many news that are not based on facts (hoaxes) that threaten the foundations of the state in Indonesia. The continuity of the nation and state in Indonesia is fractured because hoaxes. Hoaxes will continue and increase when the nation’s major interests are contested, like when the presidential or regional head elections. Indonesia adheres to the principle of Bhinneka Tunggal Eka and consists of many tribes, traditions, and races, of course must be more careful in guarding and controlling hoaxes in order to maintain the Republic of Indonesia. The Islam conception in avoiding the danger of hoaxes becomes an alternative offer. We must be more careful in guarding and controlling hoaxes in order to maintain the Republic of Indonesia. The conception of Islam in avoiding the hoaxes becomes an alternative offer.

Keywords: hoax, social media, Qur'an

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia was ever enlivened by various media reporting about racist and persecution to Papuan students in Surabaya on 16 and 17 August 2019. Then, it made triggered demonstrations that led to riots in Papua.¹ Persecution is not a new problem in Indonesia. the Shoutheast Asia Freedom of Expression Network

¹ Rendy Adrikni Sadikin. “Chronology of Persecution of Papuan Students, Threats to Kill Until Racial Invective”. Accessed from https://www.voice.com/news/2019/08/19/130345/kronologi-persecution-student-papua-threats-to-kill-to-racial_insults_on_October_21, 2019.
(SAFEnet) recorded that more than 60 cases of persecution have occurred in Indonesia since 2017. The act of persecution is also cause concern in the community because apart from causing fear, without realizing it, persecution also has the potential to bring the country to ruin.

Ironically, persecution case has occurred because content on social media where the content contains lies, hoaxes, and hate speech. The incident that befell Papuan students also occurred from hoaxes and hate speech spread by an individual on social media. This conflict caused an impact on Papua's desire to propose a referendum to leave the Republic of Indonesia. Through social media intermediaries, hoaxes and hate speech are easily spread and quickly become public consumption. Social media was used originally as a means of communication. Now, it started to be used to launch propaganda and influence the attitudes and behavior of a particular person or group. So, it made a new phenomenon called persecution.

Based on number of propaganda cases that are caused by hoaxes so the concrete steps to respond these negative phenomena are we must be understand the dangers of hoaxes and learn instructions from Al-Qu'an to prevent hoaxes. The thinking of Al-Qur'an is a form of thought in the Qur'an from explicit texts that provide a way out when a hoax occurs. Using Erving Goffman's dramaturgy theory, this paper analyzed hoax dramaturgy about propaganda phenomena in Indonesia, which will be explained in several sub-discussions. They are the conception of hoaxes, hoaxes and propaganda, and the reasoning of the Quran about the idea of upholding diversity as a prevention to counteract the phenomenon of propaganda in Indonesia.

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2 Scholastica Gerintya. "Acts of Persecution Threatening Indonesia". Accessed from https://tirto.id/aksi-aksi-persekusi-yang-threatenindonesia-cJ9Q on October 21, 2019.
3 Pangki T. Hidayat. "Persecution and Threats of Rule of Law". Accessed from https://m.detik.com/news/kolom/d-3530122/persekusi-dan-ancaman-kehancuran-negara-law on October 28, 2019
4 CNN Indonesia. "Suspect of Racism Admits Spontaneous Swearing To Papuan Students". Accessed from https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20190903062130-12-426979/suspect-racism- admit-speech-to-student-papua-spontaneous on October 21, 2019.
5 Raymundus Rikang. "The Code of Light and Mass Precedes". Accessed from https://majalah.tempo.com /read/158322/ code-light-and-mass-precedes on October 28, 2019.
HOAX CONCEPT

Hoax is one of the big problems in Indonesian. Hoax is interpreted as fake news or news that is not in accordance with reality. The spreading of hoax caused unrest for the community because many people felt aggrieved by the hoax. The number of hoaxes and hate speech in Indonesia continues to increase every year. Based on data from the Ministry of Communication and Information, hoaxes have continued to increase since the beginning of 2019. On January, there were 175 contents identified as hoaxes, then in February 353 content was found, and in March 453 contents, this number continued to increase even in February. Every month, the most widely circulated hoaxes are political themed hoaxes. Even earlier, according to the Ministry of Communication and Informatics, throughout April 2019, 486 hoaxes were found, and almost half of them had a political theme, with 209 contents.

Hoaxes are often used as a campaign and propaganda tool by some irresponsible people. Especially in the political years, many fake news or hoaxes were found with the aim of bringing down opponents through news made in such a way. Hoax themselves began to be known by the Indonesian people along with

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6 Arif Santosa. Tt. General Indonesian Dictionary. Surabaya: Mahkota Kita. 250.
7 Naimatus Tsaniyah and Kannisa Ayu Juliana. 2019. “Digital Literacy as an Effort to Prevent Hoaxes in the Era of Disruption”. Al-Balagh: Journal of Da'wah and Communication Vol. 4 No. January 1-June 2019. 122.
8 Kominfo. "The Findings of Kominfo: The Most Circulating Hoax in April 2019". Accessed from https://kominfo.go.id/content/detail/18440/temuan-kominfo-hoax-paling-banyak-beredar-di-april-2019/sorotan_media on October 21, 2019.
9 Rety Palupi. 2019. “The Misuse of Social Media as a Propaganda Tool”. Journal of Communication Vol. 10 No. March 1, 2019. 70.
10 Ainal Fitri. 2015. “Dramaturgy: The Image of Prabowo Subianto on Twitter Social Media Ahead of the 2014 Presidential Election”. In the Journal of Interaction Vol. 4 No. January 1, 2015. 101.
the proliferation of internet users who continued to increase from time to time. Moreover, with the development of technology and social media, the circulation of hoaxes has become wilder. Every person can easily create information and upload it to the internet, so we don’t know the information is true or false.

The mix of valid and hoax information will not be a problem for those who have the expertise and patience in assessing the information. However, this will certainly have fatal consequences for the community. People sometimes do not understand how to identify the truth of an information. Hoaxes and fake news are often displayed with sentences like true information when in reality they are not so it makes people easily with hoaxes.

Hoax from the Latin "hocus" means to deceive or deceive. Therefore, the content is often deliberately manipulated for deceptive purposes. So, there are many cases that did not actually happen but were made into news and packaged as well as possible so that the audience was interested in reading them. This is what the researcher calls a hoax in cosmetic makeup. The ability of cosmetics that can change appearance and can cover up defects is exactly the same as the purpose of the hoax that has been circulating so far, i.e. covering up facts with falsehoods. In addition, the perpetrators of hoaxes are often caused by negative emotional impulses, such as the desire to say "wow", feelings of fear of being rivaled, and so on. It's the same with cosmetic users who appear with a certain makeup with the aim of saying "wow" and being said to be the most beautiful. However, this kind of cosmetic polish is not new in the world of politics. This is commonly referred to as "dramaturgy".

11 Darrell Huff. 1954. How to Lie With Statistics. England: Penguin Books. 15.
12 Vibriza Juliswara. 2017. “Developing a Diversified Media Literacy Model in Analyzing Fake News Information (Hoax) in Social Media”. In the Journal of Sociological Thought Vol. 4 No. August 2, 2017. 143.
13 Moh. Sadik Sabry. 2018. "Al-Quran Insights About Hoaks (A Study of Thematic Interpretation)". In Tafsere Vol. 6 No. December 2, 2018. 53.
14 Retno Iswari Tranngono and Fatma Lathifah. 2007. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama. 4.
15 Atik Astrini. 2017. “Hoax and Banality…”, 94
The dramaturgy theory was introduced by Erving Goffman. He stated that the world is a theater stage wrapped in reality. It's like a face full of wounds which is then wrapped with cosmetic polish to make it look flawless and beautiful. That kind of thing as if it has become human nature to lie if the lie can provide benefits for him. Based on this reality, the term "smartness" emerged to refer to people who have been given the gift of Allah in the form of reason but instead misuse it for bad purposes. Therefore, Allah gave guidance to examine in advance every news that someone conveys as in the QS. Al-Hujurat:

"O you who believe, if a wicked person comes to you with news, then examine it carefully so that you do not inflict a disaster on a people without knowing the situation that causes you to regret what you did."  

Lafadh Fāsiqun is taken from the word “fasaqo” which means wicked or disobedient. The intention of the disobedient person by Quraish Shihab in Tafsir Al-Misbah is explained as a person who is considered to be out of the corridor of religion due to repeated major or minor sins, in this case including committing and spreading lies. Although in Islam there are areas that allow people to lie, but actually lying is still something that is not easily tolerated, as explained in QS An-Nahl, verse 105.

16 Mahzumi thought. "Hoax, the Misery of the Post-Truth Era". In Al-Fikrah Magazine. January 2017 issue. 33
17 Lajnah Pentashihan Mushaf Al-Quran Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia. 2017. Al-Quran Tajweed and Translation. Bandung: Cordoba International Indonesia. 516.
18 Mahmud Yunus. 1989. Arabic-Indonesian Dictionary. Jakarta: Hidakarya. 316.
19 M. Quraish Shihab. 2017. Tafsir Al-Misbah Vol. 12. Tangerang: Lentera Hati. 589.
20 There are three things that will not be recorded as a lie. One, a man lies to his wife to win her heart. Two, the lie of a man in war. Three, a man lies to reconcile two people. This information is based on the 98th hadith issued by Imam Bukhārī in At-Ţārīkh Al-Kabīr. See Jalaluddin as-Suyuthi. 2009. Asbab Wurud Al-Hadīth. trans. Muhammad Ayub, et al. Jakarta: As-Sunnah Library. 406.
"Indeed, those who fabricate lies are only those who do not believe in the signs of Allah, and they are the liars."  

From this sentence, it is clear that Islam rejects lies. The relevance between prohibition from Quran and hoax is in the attitudes that are built, because lying is the bad attitude that are prohibited in Islam. Western philosophers also had same view with islam that as a bad thing and also become an object of ethical study. Jacques Derrida in his book History of the Lie stated that lying is a wrong and unjustified act, even including a crime. But, there are still some people think that saying something that is not true is a trivial thing that may occur due to negligence. In fact, it is not simple. Many aspects of life can be unknowingly destroyed due to incorrect and invalid information. Like cosmetic users who are not aware of the dangers posed by cosmetic ingredients that can threaten their health in the future.

Therefore, to minimize the hoaxes effect, a calm soul is needed. People have to be calm in investigating the truth of the information received as a part of the validity test or news clarification (tabayyun). It is previously explained in QS. Al-Hujurat: 6 indicated by lafadh tabayyan which contains the command to research first.

**Hoax-Propaganda: the threats of the Nation's Integrity**

In this information era, the function of the mass media is not only tool used to convey information but also used to make propaganda issues. The term propaganda comes from the Latin "propagare" means expansion. Propaganda is

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21 Lajnah Pentashihan Mushaf Al-Quran Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia. Ibid, 279
22 Jalaluddin as-Suyuthi. 2014. Ashabun Nuzul, The Reasons for the Revealing of Al-Qur'an Verses. Jakarta: Al-Kautsar Library. 317.
23 Jacques Derrida. 2002. History of the Lie. California: Stanford University Press. 28.
24 David Suarez and Patricia Bromley. 2012. “Professionalizing a Global Social Movement”. In the American Journal of Education Vol. 118 No. May 3, 2012. 254.
25 Idnan A. Idris. 2018. Al-Quran Clarification on Hoax News. Jakarta: Elex Media Komputindo. 151.
26 Moeryanto Ginting Munthe. 2010. "Propaganda and Communication Studies", In Journal of Communication Vol. 2 No. December 2, 2010. 41.
often seen as an attempt to influence the views and behavior of individuals to conform to the wishes of the propagandist. Alo Liliweri in his book Strategy for Community Communication stated that the main objective of propaganda is to influence public opinion.\(^{27}\)

Propaganda is not only conveying facts but also influencing and leading public opinion on a particular issue. There are groups use social media to convey information based on facts but others use it for the existence of their group and ignore the facts. Information by ignoring this fact is a threat to the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia and the continuity of Bhineka Tunggal Eka.

Second, manipulate emotions. The propagandists in carrying out their propaganda actions usually use several emotion manipulation techniques, which can manipulate the target's emotions from liking to disliking, and vice versa.\(^{28}\) Many cases occurred in the country, because read news on social media, individuals can take radical actions, such as the tragedy of the bombings that occurred on the ground. There many people are involved in radical acts because of readings news from social media propaganda. Individuals do not recognize the giver of information, but individuals are willing to accept information that is not necessarily accurate. Even people are willing to take radical actions only from communication and conversations on social media. To rise emotions like a hoax spreader is to become a tool for a purpose that benefits the group. When the individual's emotions can be controlled by the hoax information provider, that's they can lead individual rationality to the goals desired by the hoaxter.

Third, garner support or disapproval. The main goal of propaganda is to change the attitudes and behavior of the target to support or reject a particular

\(^{27}\) Alo Liliweri. 2010. Community Communication Strategy. Yogyakarta: LKIS. 60.  
\(^{28}\) Ibid. 61.
issue. Back to the main purpose of propaganda is to change one's attitude and behavior to another attitude desired by the propagandist.

Mass media is an important tool for spreading propaganda. McQuail stated that the mass media is considered very essential for propaganda because the mass media is considered to be the only channel that can reach the public and has many advantages that can be utilized. It causes the level of reach and public trust in the mass media is relatively high. In the midst of public trust in the mass media, propagandists easily change the direction of the public's point of view by processing and distorting the facts in the mass media so that people are led to support the agenda of the propagandist. Although it is same as spreading false facts for personal gain.

The relationship between propaganda and hoaxes begins to emerge. So, it is not surprising that there are many hoaxes or fake news circulating in the mass media for propaganda purposes. Especially, the public is increasingly pampered with various technological facilities which unwittingly even worsen the situation. Hoaxes and hate speech can be easily spread by social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Line, and etc. If the hoaxes and hate speech have been seen and read by people who easily believe, they will be redistributed easily through their social media. It will happen over and over again until many people are affected by these hoaxes and hate speech. If this is left unchecked, it will have a greater impact, namely allowing the existence of opinions that can corner a party and it is even feared that it can lead to acts of persecution in the community.

Persecution is defined as an act of hunting arbitrarily against a person or group who is then hurt. Persecution is usually carried out on the basis of emotions in which there is a certain motive. As for the impact resulting from acts of persecution, namely the possibility of physical injury, it can even lead to death. This act of persecution is clearly prohibited in Islam, Allah says in QS Al-An'am,

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29 Denis McQuail. 2018. *Mass Communication Theory*. Jakarta: Salemba Humanika. 61
30 Ben Rigby. 2008. *Mobilizing Generation 2.0*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass. XI
31 Mustofa. 2018. "Persecution in Azwaji's Commentary Review". *An-Nuha* Vol. 5 No. 1 July 2018. 13.
verse 152. "... and do not kill the soul that Allah has forbidden (killing it) except with the right (cause)", that is what is commanded you so that you understand (it)."  

In addition, groups who carry out persecution can also be subject to articles in the KHUP, such as threats in article 368,33 persecution article 351,34 assault article 170,35 and others. However, persecution is prohibited in Islam. In fact, there are still many people or groups who carry out persecution so that it creates new problems again, like the incident three years ago, the incident of Papuan students in Surabaya.

Propaganda efforts were found behind the circulating hoaxes. One of them is name calling or propaganda techniques that give a bad label to something. It can be seen from the words "monkey" that were uttered and addressed to students from Papua. It made the racist attitudes to persecution which became the beginning of the creation of riots. In the incident of racist and persecution, the Head of the Cyber Crime Sub-Directorate of the Ditreskrim Polda East Java, AKBP Cecep Sustya, has named several individuals involved as suspects in the

32 Lajnah Pentashihan Mushaf Al-Quran Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia. Ibid, 148.
33 Article 368 of the Criminal Code regulates extortion and threats, "Whoever with the intention of unlawfully benefiting himself or another person, forces a person with violence or threats of violence to give an item, which wholly or partly belongs to that person or another person, or to make a debt or write off a debt, is threatened with extortion, with a maximum imprisonment of nine years. See the Criminal Code; the Criminal Code. Bandung: Citra Umbara. 114
34 Article 351 paragraph 1 reads, "Malmage is punishable by a maximum imprisonment of two years and eight months or a maximum fine of four thousand five hundred rupiah". See Ibid, 109.
35 Article 170 paragraph 1 states, "Whoever openly and with collective force uses violence against people or goods, is threatened with a maximum imprisonment of five years and six months". See Ibid, 55.
36 Nafriandi. 2013. “Religious Propaganda and Threats to Religious Tolerance (Study of Prophetic Caricature Hadith)”. In Turāst: Journal of Research and Service Vol. 1 No. December 2, 2013. 154.
case of spreading hoaxes and provocations, until later it was discovered that the hoax and hate speech were conveyed in sentences that tended to be exaggerated, such as "The flag was torn up." By using provocative sentences on social media, many people believed that they were ignited by emotions and ended in persecution.

Until mid-2021, hoaxes still continue even though their frequency has decreased along with the decline in the political arena. Hoax will be crowded again at the time of the struggle for power. Hoax is a threat to the Republic of Indonesia. It is caused by the low level of public literacy and also one of the reasons behind the rapid circulation of hoaxes.

"O mankind, indeed We have created you from a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another. Verily, the most honorable of you in the sight of Allah is the most pious among you. Verily, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Knowing."

The Islamic experts and scholars often quote the above sentences as an argument that there is nothing special about someone, especially because of wealth, appearance, and race. All have an equal position, except the level of piety to God. So, hoaxes and racism are actions that are really not justified by religion. The editorial of yâ-ayyuhannâs lafadh showed that the message of tolerance and diversity contained in the verse is not only intended for those who believe, but also is more broadly addressed in general to all humans.

It also explained that humans are essentially descended from one lineage. This is indicated by lafadh min zakhri wa untsâ which means from a man and a woman. Lafadh min zakhri wa untsâ contains two different interpretations. First, that all humans are originally born of a man (Adam) and a woman (Eve). So it implied that all humans are brothers of one father and mother, namely Adam and Eve. Second, that all humans from the past until now were born from a man

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37 Daryono. “The Latest Case of Papuan Student Racism in Surabaya: Tri Susanti’s Role in Making It So Suspect”. Accessed from https://www.tribunnews.com/regional/2019/08/29/terbaru-case-racism-mahasiswa-papua-di-surabaya-role-tri-susasnti-who-made-a-suspect?page=4 on October 21, 2019.
(father) and a woman (mother). No human was created except from the mixture of a man and a woman, except Maryam who gave birth to Isa Alaihissalam. So, it shows that every human being is essentially born from each of the same parents.

Lafadh syu'ūban waqobāila means nations and tribes. The child who was originally still in the form of semen, whose color and appearance was not yet clear, was made by God in various colors and shapes based on the conditions of the earth's climate, the air, the location of the land, and the circulation of the seasons. So, starting from formed various kinds of faces and human beings. So until then various languages were born as a means of communication. Furthermore, driven by the call of life, humans then split up and scattered in order to find a suitable and suitable environment for survival, so that over time the so-called nations were born. The nations were divided into various tribes. The tribe was divided into various families. And from detailed families to various households, fathers, mothers, and so on.

It is also emphasized that humans who have been divided into various nations and tribes down to these smaller details, are not so that humans become increasingly distant from one another. However, Allah created each of these differences with the aim that humans get to know each other, as seen in lafadhlita'ārofu means that you get to know each other. Lafadh lita'ārofu is taken from the word 'arofa' by using a word pattern that contains a reciprocal meaning, thus giving the meaning of 'knowing each other'. Because by getting to know one another, the greater the opportunity for mutual benefit to each other. Therefore, the verse emphasizes the need to know each other, which in this case is an attitude of mutual openness and acceptance of any differences.

There is no mutual superiority of the group itself. Likewise with acts of discrimination let alone persecution. Because there is only an attitude of
improving each other’s shortcomings and exploring the potential of oneself or a group to build the nation and state to be more advanced. Replanting the values of diversity contained in the QS. Al-Hujurat: 13 is considered to be an offer that is quite helpful in preventing the emergence of the phenomenon of propaganda and persecution so that it does not repeat itself, especially in the midst of the rise of social media users and the spread of hoaxes or fake news that are spread and developed in the community. By always maintaining tolerance and brotherhood between each other. From the reading of the verse above, it is hoped that everyone can appreciate each difference more, so that it will not be easy to be pitted against each other by racist remarks and fake news that are used as propaganda tools to divide the nation.

Processing of Al-Qur'an Reason in Preventing Hoaxes

The texts of the Qur'an explained that in case of errors and doubts the information needs to be tabayyun (clarification), but some Muslims do not do this. The text of the Quran that provides a way out of the threat of hoaxes, but by some Muslims it does not become a behavior. The text is still limited to being a mujâdalâh (debating) material, not being the basis for an action.

To quote Weber that social change in society occurs because the development of human rationality. Weber mentioned four types of rationality that give color to human development. First, traditional rationality, which aims to fight for values derived from the traditions of people's lives—because this rational goal is sometimes called irrational. Second, affective rationality, which is related to emotions or relationships by using a very deep sense. Third, value oriented rationality (value-oriented rationality), this rationality sees value as the goal of life. And fourth, instrumental rationality (instrumental rationality), this rationality uses tools to achieve the desired goal.

Weber's concept can be alluded to with the processing of the Qur'anic reasoning which, by some, is not a tool to solve problems, in this case the issue of the spread of hoaxes and the threat of national disintegration. The first group
above, most likely will not use the reasoning of the Qur’an as a foothold to solve problems, but become a group that upholds noble traditions. The group does not take advantage of the processing of reasoning from the Qur’an, but it will not be easy to be provoked to hear let alone engage in hoaxes.

While the second group, affective rationality, may still be open to following hoax information, but it depends on the peer group (close friends). If friends like to accept and spread hoaxes, then individuals whose rationality falls into this category will be easily carried away. The third group puts forward values as the goal of life, will not be much affected by hoaxes, this group has the most potential to take the processing of reasoning from the Qur’an. The fourth group is a group that is not easily trapped by hoaxes, both as consumers of hoax information, and as parties that produce hoax information.

Based on Weber’s typology of rationale, not everyone—including all Muslims—can do the processing of reasoning in the Qur’an. The processing of reasoning in the Qur’an can only be owned by people who occupy the third and fourth positions of reasoning. It is also a new hypothesis that the perpetrators of hoaxes are not a group that can process the reasoning of the Qur’an—even though this group recognizes the Qur’an as a guide and guide for them in life.

**CONCLUSION**

In the midst of the threat of disintegration faced by the Indonesian people, an effort is needed to always maintain and care for togetherness and diversity among nations. And from the explanation above, it can be concluded that the values contained in the QS. Al-Hujurat: 13 is ideally suited to build togetherness in a diversity. But in reality, these beautiful religious teachings are not easy to be practiced. The concept of diversity contained in the QS. Al-Hujurat: 13 seems to
be an expensive thing so it is not easy to buy and realize. Especially with the spread of hoaxes or fake news in the community which is often used as a propaganda tool.

With the fading of the spirit of diversity in the community, Bhineka Tunggal Ika as a motto has begun to lose its position as a unifying tool for the nation. This makes it easy for people to be pitted against each other by propaganda that has unwittingly divided the harmony of the nation. So, it makes racism and persecution easily occur in society. If it is not handled immediately, it will certainly lead to social chaos which in turn can result in the disintegration of the nation.

The reasoning of the Qur'an can be an alternative offer to get out of the threat of national disintegration due to the spread of hoaxes. However, not all of them can use the reasoning of the Qur'an as a basis - if the perspective of human change is built on the basis of Weber's perspective, which states that human change can occur according to its rationality.

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