

## Materials in the Perspective of Ibnu Sina

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### Abstract

*This study aims to analyze a Materials in the Perspective of Ibnu Sina. This study used qualitative research. The result of this study shows that Materials defined according to the Indonesian Dictionary are materials used to make other materials. Whereas matter is an object. Materialism is an understanding that glorifies material things. Philosophically, matter is the basis of reality. Without material, ideas will not arise. The characteristics of the material is that it has breadth, meaning that it is not just an idea, there is a follow-up. There is real action that can be seen, touched, or felt. Matter has space and time. Matter has shape and form. The material existed before the idea emerged. Because the idea's place is in the material. So that the creation of the material first, then the idea.*

### Keywords

materials; perspective; ibnu sina



### I. Introduction

Adam was the first human being created by Allah on earth, as told in QS Al-Hijr: 26. Since Adam was created and then Eve was created too, until now humans are still studying what they see, what they feel, starting from the flat surface of the earth, mountains, forests, oceans, to researching the material or chemical elements that make up each element.

All elements have their respective roles for the continuity of life on this earth, both inanimate objects and living things, all are composed of a number of elements. For example, the human body is composed of several types of elements, namely oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium, and phosphorus.

The relationship of human communication with non-humans, needs to be a part of the discussion in communication science, due to the basis of the necessity, such as the occurrence of human interaction with water, on the basis of human need for water. Apart from this, it is also necessary to understand that interaction is the initial process of communication. Basically interaction is a process of reciprocal relations carried out by individuals and individuals, between individuals and groups, between groups and individuals, between groups and groups in social life. (Amminullah, M. 2019)

Likewise with the earth, there are hundreds of types of chemical elements that make up the surface reliefs and the bowels of the earth. Until now, the types of elements that have been found by humans are about 118 elements. Uniquely, before humans discovered these elements, the Qur'an had touched on several important elements in life, namely iron (Surat Al-Hadid: 25), copper (Surat Al-Kahf: 96), gold (Surat An-Nahl: 14), silver (Surah Al-Insan: 21), and oxygen (Surah Al-An'am: 125). Among these elements there are solids, liquids, or gases. Everything is tangible and occupies space.

## II. Review of Literature

### 2.1. History of Ibn Sina

Ibn Sina, in the west called Avicenna, was born in a time of chaos, where the Abbasid Caliph experienced a decline, and the countries that were originally under the Abbasid Caliph began to break away one by one to stand alone. The city of Baghdad itself, as the center of the Abbasid Caliph's government, was controlled by the Banu buwaih group in 334 H and their power continued until 447 H.

Among the independent regions was Daulat Samani in Bukhara, and among his caliphs was Noah Bin Mansur. In his time, namely in the year 340 H or 980 AD, in a place called Afsyana from the Bukhara area, Ibn Sina was born and raised. In the city of Bukhara he memorized the Quran and studied religious sciences and astronomy.

Ibn Sina was gifted with extraordinary intelligence. At the age of 10 he had memorized the Koran perfectly. After completing Al-Quran lessons, he studied and mastered other disciplines, ranging from logic, physics, mathematics, fiqh, and philosophy. He had studied with Abu Abdullah al-Natili and Ismail al-Zahid, but in the end the two teachers were overwhelmed.

Ibn Sina besides being known as an expert in the field of philosophy is also known as a medical expert. Not to mention that he is more than 16 years old, his expertise in medical science is well known, and many people even come to study with him. He was not enough with medical theories, but he also practiced and treated the sick.

He was never bored or restless in reading philosophy books, and whenever he faced difficulties, he asked God for guidance, and apparently his request was never disappointed. Often he fell asleep because he was tired of reading, so in his sleep he saw solutions to the difficulties he faced.

When he reached the age of 17, Noah bin Mansur, ruler of the region of Bukhara, suffered from an illness that the doctors of his time could not treat. However, after being treated by Ibn Sina, the Caliph's illness was cured. From then on, Ibn Sina received a good reception, and was able to visit the caliph's library which was full of hard-to-find books. Ibn Sina by reading all the books in the library with fun. But one day the library caught fire and Ibn Sina was the suspect, so he was imprisoned.

Another story of Ibn Sina's treatment is when a young man was sick and no one could cure him. Ibn Sina treated the young man by asking the young man to name the cities in the province. When the young man mentions the name of a certain city, the young man's pulse gets faster. Ibn Sina concluded that the young man was in love with a girl in the city. Ibn Sina's treatment was to tell the young man to marry the girl he fell in love with. From this story, it can be concluded that someone who experiences pain is not only due to his weak physical condition, but also because of mental problems.

Apart from being a doctor, Ibn Sina had extraordinary sincerity in terms of studying and working. He used the day to work and at night he used to read and write. Often nights he spent in the mosque to pray and meditate. It is narrated that he had read Aristotle's metaphysics 40 times, but could not understand it. One day there was a used book seller who offered him a book, although he had refused, it was finally bought by Ibn Sina. How happy it was that after reading the book it turned out to be Al-Farabi's writing and it was easy to understand and memorize it. So that Ibn Sina considered that Al-Farabi was one of his teachers.

## 2.2. Definition of Material, Matter, Materialism

According to the Indonesian Dictionary, the definition of material is material that will be used to make other goods; raw materials for building (such as sand, wood, lime). Matter is things, things, everything that is visible. While materialism is materialism; philosophical understanding which states that everything that happens in the world is caused by (or comes from) objects. This flow views humans as a collection of body organs, chemical substances, and biological elements, all of which consist of matter and matter. Meanwhile, according to Atang and Beni (2008:363) that materialism is a theory about atoms of matter moving and developing as the initial formation of nature, reason and consciousness are physical material processes.

To meet the needs of life, both physical-biological and sexual needs, humans need to eat and drink. Material food and drink. Suppose a human dies, the human will be buried or buried in the ground. In the soil human bodies will decompose into humus which will fertilize plants. Fertile soil will make plants grow. While plants are consumed by other living humans. Humans who live will reproduce and produce sperm or ovum fertility. It is the seed to produce offspring and the birth of a new human child. Such is this view that man begins with matter and will end up in matter again.

Materialism does not recognize non-material entities such as spirits, ghosts, demons, angels and even gods. Materialism also does not recognize the nature of the supernatural (supernatural) thus materialism is a view of life that seeks the basis of everything that is included in human life in the realm of truth solely to the exclusion of everything that transcends the realm of the senses.

In ancient Greece there has been a notion of materialism namely that which developed in the Greek philosophers about natural events as explained by Thales (625-546 BC) that the origin of natural event or its constituent material is water. According to Anaximenes origin of natural events is air. This philosophy continues developed and according to Heraclitus (540-480 BC) material that the shaper of this universe is "everything flows".

Empedocles (490-430) says that the origin of natural events consists of four elements, namely: water, air, earth and fire. Democritus argues that the universe is made up of moving atoms endless and innumerable. Atoms are tiny particles

The constituent parts of matter are protons, neutrons, and electrons. All that the Greek philosophers said was a materialist world view. However, their opinion did not continue until they got the actual truth. They then continued their study of human nature and behavior as ethical, social, and political beings.

In the Middle Ages materialism was not so popular in society because of the contradictory nature of materialism with religion, at that time the highest power in the state was regulated by clergy and the church, only in the 19th century, namely the Renaissance (enlightenment) materialism is used as the basis of science concrete knowledge because everything can be proven and experimented.

## III. Discussion

### 3.1. Materials in Philosophy

The defining characteristic of matter is potentiality or passivity, in the sense that it is not active and is instead acted upon. The defining characteristic of a material is potency or passivity, in the other sense that the material is inactive and requires follow-up. Moreover, the idea of matter is disconnected from form, going hand in hand with the idea of possibility. Avicenna equates possibility with non-existence.

The term material has several definitions. From the point of view of the common man (the layman) matter is wealth, wealth. Materialism is a person who values wealth and wealth more than anything else. In other words, the person loves the world more. Happy with wealth, happy with money and happy with wealth, live and die for the sake of material things. For spiritual people, this becomes a barrier to get closer to God and is avoided, meaning that wealth is that number. There is an anecdote that money is not number one but the main one. This statement still indicates that matter is number one.

In terms of science, the science that works on the basis of matter is the exact sciences/natural sciences. When viewed from the hierarchical level of science, philosophers agree that exact science is the lowest level because the basis is clear, can be measured, can be discussed, and has calculations. When viewed with the current reality, exact science is a science that has the highest level. For example, a child will be considered great if at school he majors in science. Or students of the Faculty of Ushuluddin are considered as students who are not accepted in other majors. Whereas a more complicated science is a science that goes beyond the limits of logic and goes beyond the material called metaphysics.

Beyond everyday understanding, beyond the understanding of science, there is a philosophical system called materialism. Going beyond that means that it is not unusual and unscientific, not that it has nothing to do with everyday life, not that it has nothing to do with science, but it summarizes all of it, goes deeper and assumes the basic material reality of everything. No one can think, no one can exist, no one can live, without relying on what is matter. For example that our existence in this world, basically matter.

### **3.2. Material Features**

The characteristics of something that is said to be material is that it has breadth, has space and time, can be accessed by the five senses (has shape and form). Broadness means having a physical manifestation, not just an idea (stopping in the mind) but an extension of the idea extending to become a reality. Suppose there is a saying "I want to be a smart person." It's just an idea, if you are asked to study you don't want to, if you are asked to study lazy, if you are asked to do a job that is closer to reality you don't do it. This means that it is still an idea, has not yet become a reality, which means that it is not yet material, it is not widespread, it is not real, it is not essential. Although there is an essence that is smart, but it is not balanced with existence (intangible). Essence is formed with existence, if there is a form it can only be concluded. Another example of breadth is, "Are humans by nature evil or good?" From a material point of view it is not important. If the manifestation is evil then the existence is evil. If the embodiment is good then the existence is good.

The second characteristic is having space and time. This is included in the dimensions of our lives, namely the dimensions of space and time. It is inconceivable if the world has no space and it is inconceivable if the world is without time. For example, the discussion of the process of creation. It can be tricky determining space and time coordinates. For those who believe that creation is from nothing, it means that there is no universe then suddenly God created. Well, there is no time, from no nature then there is nature. This means that there is a time lag, even though time is a cycle of the rotation of the world. Means there was a time before the existence of this world, this is hard to imagine. So the material must have a shape and appearance that can be recognized with the basic parameter of being able to be touched. If you can't touch it, you can smell it, you can see it, you can hear it, and you can feel it.

For example, the wind, the wind can not be held, but can be felt by the blow that touches the cheek. Then it will come from our lips saying that this is the wind, even though

we can't hold the wind. Another example, there is the sound of thunder in the back of the house. Then it will be pictured in our heads that it is the sound emitted by matter. There is the possibility of the sound of a mouse or some other sound that comes to our minds. The sound that is heard must have material, even though we do not know the shape and appearance of the material. But his voice can be heard. Because the sound is emitted by friction material.

Materialism is the basis of reality all that is called true, it is matter. All must contain phenomena, it is matter or interactions between materials. The basic substance of the universe is matter. If it exists outside of the physical, it is called metaphysics. Metaphysics is also the interaction between matters. In religion, many things can be said to be metaphysical, but people cannot think, cannot access, cannot live, if they do not connect them with matter. Because the basis of reality is material, the content in our minds is a daily experience which is materialistic in nature. For example, an abstract thing in religion is the Day of Judgment. Tomorrow on the Day of Judgment we will be led to the Mahsyar field. What do we have in mind? In the image of our minds that all humans are led to a wide field. Even though it's the Day of Judgment, the world and its contents have been destroyed. That's the difficulty that we always symbolize any abstract thing as matter. Because humans cannot think outside of matter.

Another example is heaven, if it is described in a very abstract way, it may not interest us, and so it must be material. In heaven, we need anything there. Looking for fruit to come, looking for drinks, to come, must be material. The basis of reality, the basis of all thought, and the basis of all reality is material. As a theory, materialism includes a monistic ontology (only one variable).

Studying philosophy is as if it were all axioms. When we study materialism, we can say that it is true that all occurrences have the origin of materialism. If you study idealism, it will also be true that this universe is in control. We as humans just run it. We will admit both to be true. It can be said that life is multi-dimensional. It's up to us to rationalize it.

In materialism it does not recognize the existence of non-material entities such as gods, angels, ghosts, demons, spirits, and so on. It doesn't mean it doesn't exist or it doesn't mean it doesn't exist, but when non-material is discussed rationally, for example, we ask a question, what is God, what is an angel, when seriously analyzed, the result is only one, "meaningless", meaningless, nothing meaning, just twirling there. If we believe in the existence of God and angels then we only believe. Cannot be accessed rationally. You will not find out for sure what God is, what God is like. When we were small, God was abstracted as something above, his body was big, and he could see the world and everything in it at any time. Whatever happens and what humans do, everything is under God's control. The conclusion is that we cannot get out of the story of the limits of our own experience and that experience is materialistic.

For example, in real life looking for a soul mate, physical will be the number one criterion. Although sometimes there are people who subordinate their physical appearance. For example number one because of his morals. If there are two choices of candidates that are presented to us, the first is good physique, moderate morals and the second is physically ugly but has good morals. So materialistically we will choose the first candidate. This is all because the content of our thoughts is shaped by our everyday experiences. And that experience is the result of the exploration of the five senses processed by the mind. Beyond that it's actually a mix-up. The metaphysical idea is to combine material ideas, it is imaginative in nature. For example, heaven we imagine a place as beautiful and comfortable as a five-star hotel with beautiful waiters and all food and drinks are available. Another example, for example, we also imagine hell as a very hot



place with extraordinary torments. This shows we cannot think beyond the limits of our experience and that experience is real everyday life.

Why do many people believe, many people believe consciously and unconsciously that their school is materialism, even though in speech they say I am not a materialist (matre). Like it or not, even if it's abused every day. Only abstract religion is considered material in worship. For example, praying in congregation in the mosque is lured with a reward that is multiplied by twenty degrees from praying alone. Inikan material calculations, physical calculations. In our minds that religion is also because of the material. If the reward is a lot, it will go to heaven and vice versa.

This way of thinking is easy to accept. First, for intellectuals, materialism is promising because its parameters are clear. Science arises because the thought process is materialism, some can be measured, some can be explained, and some can be clearly understood. From here the emergence of science because of the law of causality (cause and effect). If you don't believe in the law of cause and effect, science won't exist. For spiritualists, science will not develop. For example, water causes a cloth to get wet. This is the view of materialism. But for spiritualists, water does not cause wet cloth, but the wet cloth event comes after the water is there. So the event of water getting wet with the wetness of the cloth is different. This can't be science. The spiritualists say something is the will of God.

Science will work if it has certainties and clear parameters. This is at the material level, different from the spiritual level. For example, there is a question: "What color is this wall, green or yellow?" If the material level then the color is clear because there are clear parameters to show the color. On a spiritual level, the answer can be different because if someone is drunk, the color of the walls is brown, if someone is stressed, it can be gray and so on. It is easier to talk to materialists than to moralism or spiritualism because materialism has clear parameters. For example, if we are required to be kind, loyal, it is difficult to measure the parameters.

Materialism held is a simple reality (easy), not abstract theories. For example, if water is heated to 1000C then the water will boil. This is clear and visible. But if there is a statement "Everyone who is patient, God willing, tomorrow he will win, his life will be successful." This is difficult to measure, because the parameters are not clear. So it is only natural that the proof of religion is not easy and abstract. So it can be said that being an Olympic champion is easier than the philosophy Olympiad.

### **3.3. Material and Time Assumptions**

In general, there are two material assumptions, namely the assumption of time and the assumption of matter (matter). There are some philosophers who translate materialism as an all-substance view, while idealism is defined as an all-spirited view. Assumptions according to the time process. Why is matter more important than form? Is the idea more important than the substance of the material? Because long before humans had ideas or were born into the world, this world or material nature already existed. Before there was any thought of the world, the world itself existed. That's why the first one is more substantive. Rather than an idea, the thought came later. Experience is experiencing the world before ideas. For example, when experiencing courtship before making a theory about dating. Means that material precedes ideas in terms of time. Everything that comes first is more substantive than what comes later, in terms of sequence. So that materialists say that the material is more urgent, he means the substance, he means the material is reality, if the idea comes later. In terms of substance, it is the same, people cannot think without material material, even think it uses the brain, there is no brain, cannot think, the

brain is matter. So thinking depends on the material. The brain is matter. So thinking depends on the material.

For example, when someone has an accident and his brain is hit, his brain is injured. The concussion is that the person is a bit strange in thinking. It's nothing, he can laugh to himself, and if he speaks he can digress. So it turns out that thinking depends on the material called the brain, theoretically materialism. Although some say that thinking is spiritual, the brain is physical. In fact, according to materialism, if the brain, which is material, changes, when it is confused, when it is damaged, the thinking activity also becomes damaged. This means that if the supply of hormones in the brain is not normal, then the way of thinking is also not normal. For example, when someone is in love, there is a feeling of happiness. If you look at the brain, the hormone oxytocin (the love hormone) is produced. Likewise, the hormones that affect the state of the mind are experiencing any feelings, sad, happy, bad mood, or angry. So this materialism assumes that spiritual, mental, soul is actually a state of mind and is influenced by the brain that secretes hormones. People who are stressed and go to the doctor, the doctor will give a sedative which is to heal the brain, not spiritual medicine. Another example is when someone is in a trance, then it is a phenomenon of the human mind condition which is influenced by hormones.

Everything that exists (form) comes from one source, namely matter (madda) either directly or indirectly. The spiritual world is actually an imitation of the material world. The explanation of the spiritual world is always analogous to the material world. For example, ghosts are the unseen world. In Indonesia, ghost imaginations are of various kinds, namely kuntilanak, gondoruwo, nun ngesot, pocong, and others. The imagination of ghosts in China is vampires, while the imagination of ghosts in the western world are sharp eyes, scary faces and neat clothes. The unseen world is always imagined with material and depends on where we live to describe it.

Materialism does not believe in the supernatural, the supernatural is a mental creation and the mental is the influence of the mind, the mind is influenced by hormones in the brain. The proof is that ghost faces are depicted in various ways. There is research on suspended animation. The suspended animation is not actually dead. The experience is in accordance with their respective traditions. Christians feel they have met Jesus, Muslims feel they have met an angel, some have met their brother, some have met their dead parents, and so on. This is all according to the imagination of the person who is near death every day. The suspended animation is a state condition where there is still a relationship between the physical and the spiritual, but the body is already so severe that it does not respond to signals from the spiritual. So that his subconscious memory goes up all. We also experience this condition, such as when we are dreaming which is in a state of subconscious mind. The subconscious can't be controlled.

Materialism makes the five senses the only means to achieve knowledge or knowledge. Even though it uses reason, reason must get material from the five senses. Our thinking will be productive if the source is sensory experience. These will all get new data. It's different if you just use your mind then the result is speculations. It can be concluded that if you want to be a creative person, the mainstay is the five senses. New data, valid data is basically the five senses.

Positioning science as the basis of individual and social order of life, not religion or traditions that make no sense, not myths. Everyday reality must be answered with knowledge, not answered with myths, either myths originating from religion or tradition. Because if science is clear, both benefits and harms. If it's a myth, the benefits and dangers are not clear. For example, every time before the month of Muharram (Syuro), there is a

tradition of kenduri. If this is asked about the benefits then this cannot be explained. This is a tradition, so measuring right and wrong is difficult.

#### IV. Conclusion

From the discussion of chapter two it can be concluded several things, namely:

1. Materials defined according to the Indonesian Dictionary are materials used to make other materials. Whereas matter is an object. Materialism is an understanding that glorifies material things. Philosophically, matter is the basis of reality. Without material, ideas will not arise.
2. The characteristics of the material is that it has breadth, meaning that it is not just an idea, there is a follow-up. There is real action that can be seen, touched, or felt. Matter has space and time. Matter has shape and form. The material existed before the idea emerged. Because the idea's place is in the material. So that the creation of the material first, then the idea.

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