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Abstract: This paper is aimed at explicating the Sufistic idea of Sheikh Nur al-Din al-Raniri, a scholar from Aceh through a critical investigation of his *Hijjat al-Safidiq li Daf' al-Zindiq* (the Argument of the Truthful against the Apostate) and, to a lesser extent, his *Himmat al-'Ulama' ala Ri'ayah* (the Commitment of the Religious Scholars over their Subject). The latter serves as the intellectual and theoretical ground for the former. The paper argues that his many works are all aimed at not only disseminating mystical knowledge, but also at constructing *shfi*-based culture and tradition in Aceh. For al-Raniri, the paper further argues, faith is the basis of a society. Hence, al-Raniri's conception of faith and how this central concept is related in his understanding to the process of society-building deserve a careful analysis.

Keywords: Nur al-Din al-Raniri, Contra-Wujuddiyah, Elite Construction.

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¹ Ahmad Daudy, *Allah dan Manusia dalam Konsepsi Syaikh Nuruddin ar-Raniry* (Jakarta: PT Rajawali, 1983), p. 47.

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² Sayyid Muhammad Naguib al-Attas, *ar Raniry and The Wujudyyah of the 17th Century* (Monographs of MBRAs, Malaysian Printers Ltd., 1966), p. 13.

³ Mastuki HS, *Intelektualisme Pesantren; Potret Tokoh dan Cakrawala Pemikiran di Era Pertumbuhan Pesantren* (Jakarta: Diva Pustaka, 2003), p. 53.

⁴ Daudy, *Allah dan Manusia*, p. 45.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 48.

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⁶ Kautsar Azhari Noer, *Ibn al 'Arabi; Wahdat al Wujud dalam Perdebatan* (Jakarta: Penerbit Paramadina, 1995), p. 47.

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⁷ A.E. Afifi, *Filsafat Mistis Ibn 'Arabi*, translated by Syahrir Mawi (Jakarta: Gaya Media Pratama, 1989), p. 13.

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