

18/09/1998

My experiences with the `real' Anwar Ibrahim

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I READ with great interest your eloquent piece expressing your sense of being fooled (Other Thots, Sept 13) and the almost lyrical piece by Rose Ismail, expressing her sadness and sense of being let down (NST, Sept 12) by the recent "shocking" events involving former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

I wish to share with your readers my experiences with Anwar.

Along with many others, I welcomed Anwar's emergence and rise in Umno for his commitment to Islamic renaissance in Malaysia.

But I was soon to be disabused. I shall briefly enumerate the steps which led me to lose faith in him altogether as early as August 1995:

(a) When my controversial book, Hadis - Satu Penilaian Semula, was published in May, 1986, Abim (the Malaysian Muslim Youth Movement), Anwar's spring-board organisation, became instrumental in its banning by the Government;

(b) After the Anglo-American-led Gulf War against Iraq, Anwar made a statement calling for the toppling of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq - an Anglo-American imperialist agenda;

(c) In June, 1993, Anwar blocked my proposal to (now Special Functions Minister) Tun Daim Zainuddin to form an institute for the reformation of the Muslim ummah, using the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's name;

(d) On Aug 20, 1995, Anwar blocked a dialogue between Jemaah Al-Quran Malaysia (an organisation I formed for the regeneration of the Muslim ummah) and Pusat Islam, again using the Prime Minister's name (in fact, the Government's name).

On that very day, I sent a letter to him criticising him for it and warning him not to betray his own principles.