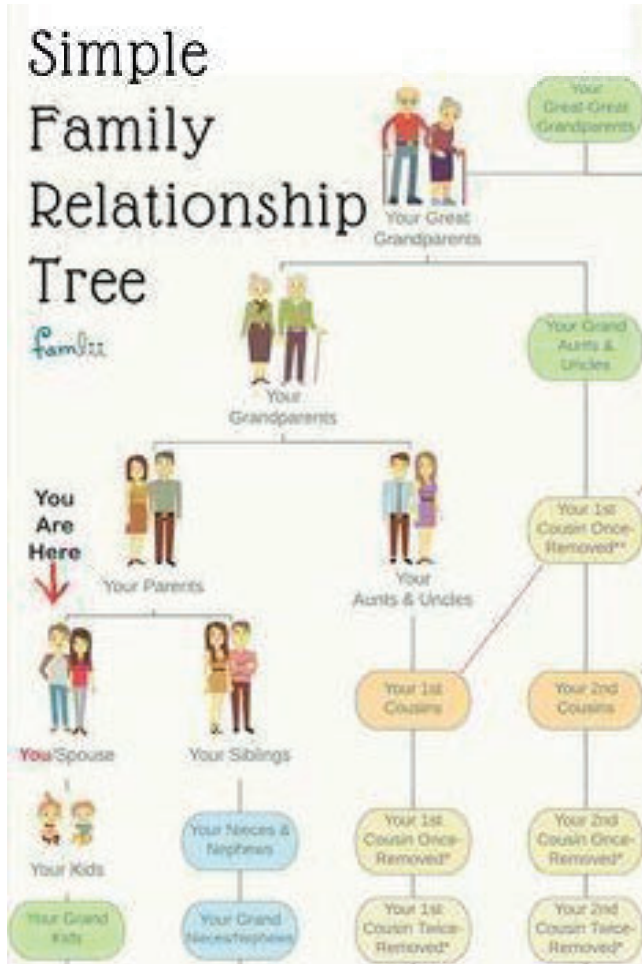


# Start Building Your Family Ancestry

Noryati Md Noor

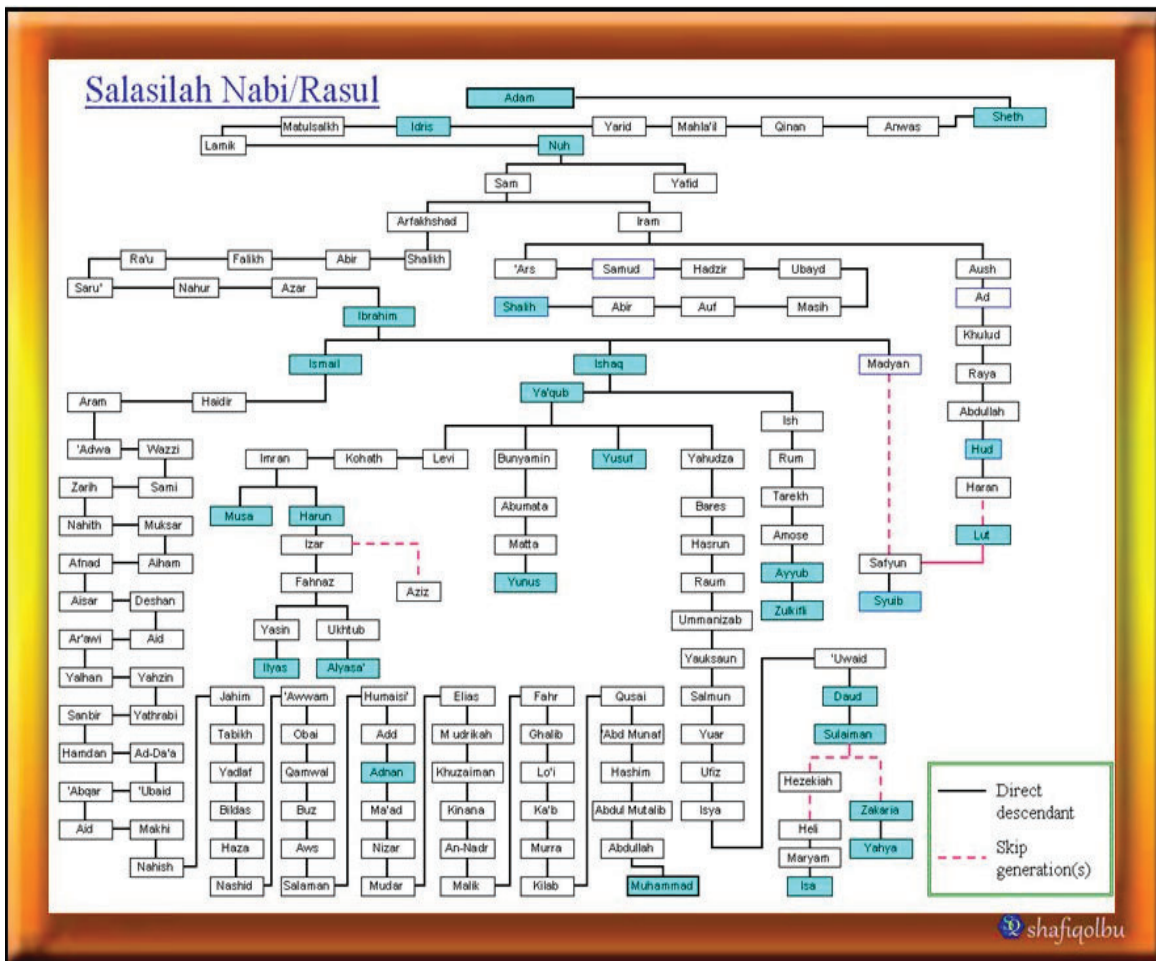


Knowing your identity - Who are we? What are our family histories? Family histories you want to pass to your children so that they can pass to their children; and the pattern continues throughout the future generations. This study of our origins and those of our predecessors is known as genealogy. According to [Else Churchill](#), a genealogist at the [Society of Genealogists in London](#), in Campbell (2021) "Genealogy involves finding the relationships in your family and discovering who your ancestors are by using historical records and increasingly other resources to build up a story of your family." Stories of the hardships and successes of previous generations are shared to motivate present generations.

Alas, the problem is not many people can name their great grandparents or great-great grandparents and more later generations. It is difficult to go beyond the grandparents! Majority can identify up to 3 generations. Beyond that, the common answer received will be 'I don't know, or I am not sure.'

How far can you go in naming all 4 of your grandparents, great-great grandparents, and other generations of grands. I can label only 4<sup>th</sup> generations – Noryati Binti Md Noor Bin Jambol Bin Abu Bakar@Suboh Bin "Tak tahu." Unfortunately, I only know the name of my grandmothers but not my great-great grandmothers. I hope you have better success in identifying your ancestors.

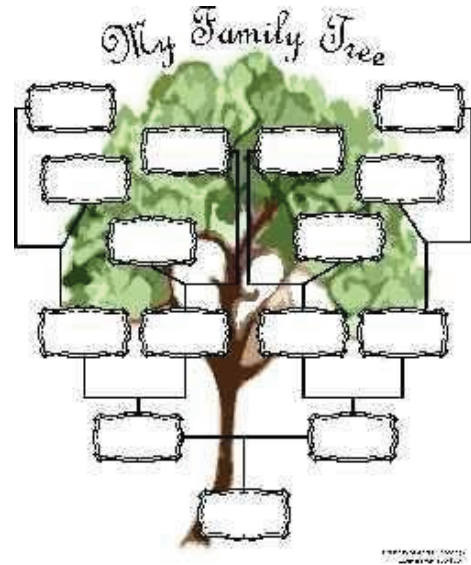
Normally, lineage of the 25 prophets and aristocratic members such as royalty are visible for multiple generations. The following image reproduced from [shafiqolbu.wordpress.com](http://shafiqolbu.wordpress.com) depicted the generations of all the prophets from Adam (PBUH) to Muhammad (SAW).



The late 20<sup>th</sup> century was evidenced by the booming of computer technologies, emergence of digital records through the genomic era (Rose, 2003). Genetic technology has evolved to not only identify families but also to find missing families. Adopted or kidnapped children were able to find their biological families. Genetic testing also has solved past crimes, freeing the innocent individuals wrongfully acquitted. Moreover, murdered and accidents victims, in which the remains found after a few months or even years, were identified through DNA testing. Perhaps DNA testing would eventually be prevalent in Malaysia, thus, connecting or reconnecting families, enabling the growth of the family tree. Let us ensure that there is no massive knowledge gap in the knowledge of our family history; do not just listen to family's stories but then the details get lost as they are passed down the generations.

Let us build our family tree by using one of the following applications: -

1. [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) – Malaysia Genealogy (family search guide to Malaysia ancestry, family history and genealogy using parish registers, transcripts, census records, marriage records)
2. <https://en.geneanet.org> – Software to build your family tree
3. [www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com) – Malaysia Genealogy using vital records of birth, marriage & death certificates, census records, immigration lists and other records
4. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) – Malaysia Family History (using census records)



Ensure our family tree will keep growing new branches, not become a stump, flourishing through generations to come.

### References

Campbell, M. History, Mystery and DNA Analysis, 24 June 2021, <https://www.technologynetworks.com>

Parthipan, S & Ishar, S.M. Perspectives on Ancestral Lineages and Genetic Markers of Malay Population in Peninsular Malaysia. *Jurnal Sains Kesihatan Malaysia* (2) 2022: 83-95 DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17576/JSKM-2022-2001-08>

Roses, A. The genome era begins.... *Nature Genetics* **33**, 217 (2003). <https://doi.org/10.1038/ng1110>

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[www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)