



MEYAKINI MENGHARGAI

EXPLORING RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IN INDONESIA

RELIGIOUS LITERACY SERIES



ENCYCLOPEDIA
of Religions and
Local Beliefs In Indonesia

MEYAKINI MENGHARGAI

EXPLORING RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IN INDONESIA **RELIGIOUS LITERACY SERIES**

exposé



Reading this book helps me appreciate the religious diversity in Indonesia, which deepen my belief in the Almighty God whose essence cannot be fully understood by the humankind. The religious differences in fact strengthen the belief in God and invites us to extend friendship.

—Romo Ferry SW, A Catholic Pastor who works at Eco Camp Bandung, West Java, Indonesia; He befriends people of various religions.

The culture of appreciating diversity can only be created when we are open and have the willing to know what others believe. This book makes us, especially the younger generation, aware that we can believe in our own religion while at the same time respect other religions.

—Samuel Adi Perdana, MAPS, A Priest at Indonesian Protestant Church (GKI) Taman Cibunut Bandung, West Java, Indonesia, and Activists at the Sancang-Declared Interfaith Forum (FLADS).

Tolerance cannot grow up without sufficient knowlege. This book provides a simple way of understanding various religions and beliefs in Indonesia, in which young generation could comprehend other religions and have empathy with them.

—Irfan Amalee, Chairman of Islamic Boarding School, Baitur Rohmah, Garut, West Java, Indonesia.

This book makes readers, especially teenagers, betterly understand the meaning of diversity and be empathy with it. Its writing style is suitable for them.

—**Fam Kiun Fat**, *Chairman of MAKIN (Indonesian Supreme Council of Confucianism in Indonesia), Bandung, West Java, Indonesia.*

This book is very suitable for our children. With such a beautiful presentation, the readers could dive into the “ocean” of religions and return with the spirit to proclaim and realize the precious messages embedded in it. Let’s Celebrate Diversity!

—**Ketut Wiguna**, *Educator of Hinduism at Pasraman Widya Dharma.*

This book might be used as a reference for those who are learning about religion of others. As the saying goes, “ignorance buries love (Tak kenal, maka tak sayang)”, hopefully this book could be a media of mutual understanding which finally produces mutual affection in Indonesia.

—**Lioe Kim Yie**, *from Division of Buddhist Theology, Jakatarub (The Network of Interreligious Cooperation).*

This book is easy to read and very informative, giving insight of religious diversity and evoking empathy for others’ beliefs.

—**Engkus Ruswana**, *Chairperson of Budi Daya Society of Belief in the Only Supreme God (Penghayat Aliran Kepercayaan pada Tuhan Yang Maha Esa).*

**ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGIONS AND
LOCAL BELIEFS IN INDONESIA**
MEYAKINI MENGHARGAI

Exploring Religious Diversity in Indonesia

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BY RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY, MY BELIEF IN MY RELIGION IS TREMENDOUSLY STRENGTHENED, BUT I STILL RESPECT OTHER RELIGIONS

We live in the most diverse country in the world, Indonesia, which has 1340 tribes and 742 languages. With such a large diversity, it is not shocking that many would be concerned with the nightmare of disintegration. Moreover, Indonesia is not a mainland country, but an archipelago.

The fear of disunity however would disappear when we read the initial pages of this book. We are presented with many facts of how miraculous Indonesia is. To be clearer, allow me to give examples. Europe is a mainland, but they are divided into more than 50 countries. Arab world, whose population lives on a vast region, adopting one single language and religion, is set apart and socio-political conflicts become headline news everyday.

How could Indonesia survive until this day even with such heterogeneity? The reader would find out the answer with pleasure by reading this book. I am of the opinion that this book fills empty space of literature in Indonesia which specifically bridges dialogue and interaction among religions and beliefs in Indonesia, because the available works tend to be normative and monolithic.

This book was written by involving key informants of each religions discussed. The use of characters in the presentation of the content makes it more unique, interesting, and easy to understand. The readers would have knowledge on teachings, divine concepts, scriptures, and religious festivals. It is also equipped with illustrations, photographs and virtual reality application of UID360, all are for the convenience of the readers.

The publication of this book seems like an oasis for all who were studying religions and belief in a single and simple way. A follower of a certain religion might not only read his religion, but also becomes aware of other religions and beliefs. In doing so, empathy and mutual respect would arise.

Finally, I hope you enjoy reading this work. We thank Convey, PPIM, UNDP, and Exposé Publisher for their cooperation to publish it. Hopefully it could be an important contribution to the creation of a more peaceful and tolerant Indonesia.[]

Ciputat, 20 November 2018

Ismatu Ropi, Ph.D.

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The Beautiful Mozaic of Indonesia

Hello
I am Zahra Aini



I am
Fransiskus



I am
Ruth



Each of us has different religion, but we never discriminate each other. As Indonesian people, we assume that religious differences are our wealth. Follow us exploring our diversity.

I am
Ida Ayu



I am
Windu



I am
Alung



I am
Sudin



Did you know?

That Indonesia is a maritime country

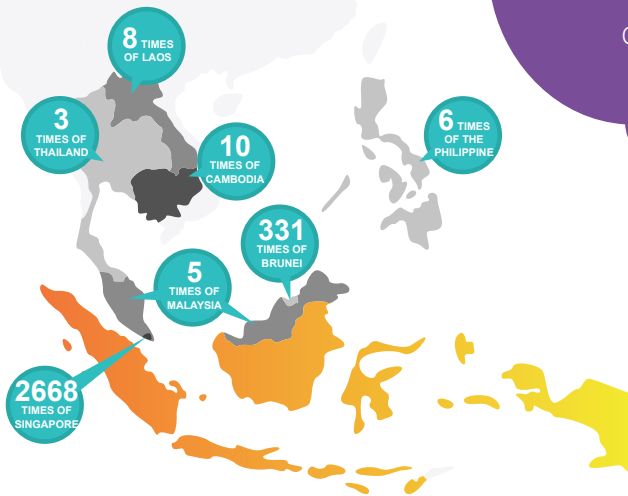


Did you know?
Most of European countries are situated on mainland, but they are divided into more than 50 countries. Despite consisting of five big islands and hundreds of small islands, Indonesia managed to maintain its unity. The seas surrounding islands are not separators, but unifying factors.

Indonesian ancestors were well-known as a great sailor exploring the archipelago. People of different islands have been involved in communication and trade for years.

How large is Indonesia compared to other countries?

Indonesia is geographically the largest country in Southeast Asia. Land area of Indonesia is 1,910,931 km². Let's compare it with other countries.



After comparing with its neighbouring countries in South East Asia, let's also compare the vastness of Indonesia with other countries in Europe.

MAP OF INDONESIA



MAP OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES



How many are tribes and languages in Indonesia?

There are around:

1.340

tribes and local languages in Indonesia

Indonesia is not only varied in terms of geography, but also tribe and language.

All inhabitants, despite being different in their tribe, language, and island of residence, recognize The Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia as their country.

Dear my friends, it is interesting that Indonesia has a unique fact. Indonesia, with its diverse ethnicities and languages, managed to remain a unified country with single flag of red and white colours. Let's compare with other regions. Arab world, for example, has one language spoken from Yemen to Morocco, but they are divided into many countries with its own flag and head of state.



742

Local Languages in INDONESIA

- Javanese
- Sundanese
- Malay
- Madurese
- Batak
- Minangkabau
- Buginese
- Acehnese
- Balinese
- Banjar



ISLAM

(207,2 million followers)

CATHOLICISM

(16,5 million followers)

PROTESTANTISM

(6,9 million followers)

HINDUISM

(4 million followers)

BUDDHISM

(1,7 million followers)

CONFUCIANISM

(117 thousand followers)



In addition to tribe and language, Indonesia has also various religions

What kind of religions are followed in Indonesia?

Sources: Population Data Sensus 2010 by Central Agency of Statistics (BPS)

187

Variants

As for local faiths, there are 187 variants which in total reached 12 million followers. 6 biggest followers of local faith:



Sunda Wiwitan



Kejawen



Kaharingan



Marapu



Tolotang



Parmalim

Sources: Directorate of Local Faith and Tradition, Ministry of Education and Culture, 2017

Religious diversity did not so far provoke religious war as what happened in other regions such as Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.



What is the ministry of religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia?

In the early independence, the founding fathers has reached an agreement on the state ideology, Pancasila, and the constitution of 1945. The first principle of Pancasila is the belief in the only one God. In the preamble of 1945 Constitution was also stated that Indonesian independence was the grace of God Al Mighty. With such constitutional framework, debates on the role of religion in Indonesian social and political lives were held during several sessions of parliamentary cabinet formations.

The founding fathers of Republic have considered the importance of forming a special ministry in charge of religious matters. Based on Government Regulation No. 1 / S.D. dated January 3, 1946 the Ministry of Religious Affairs was formed.



The Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia: The Guardian of Religious Life and Harmony in Indonesia

The enactment of the Ministry of Religious Affairs was seen as an effort to maintain and guarantee the the religious life Indonesia. It was also considered as a compromise between supporters of Islamic state and those of secular state. H.M. Rasjidi was appointed as the first minister of religious affairs.

The Structure of the Ministry of Religious Affairs

Secretariat and Inspectorate

- 1 Secretariat General
- 2 Inspectorate General
- 3 Agency of Research, Development, Education and Training
- 4 Agency of Halal Products Assurance Expert Staffs

5 Directorate Generals

- Directorate General of Islamic Education
- Directorate General of Hajj and Umrah
- Directorate General of Islamic Community Guidance
- Directorate General of Protestant Community Guidance
- Directorate General of Catholic Community Guidance
- Directorate General of Hinduism Community Guidance
- Directorate General of Buddhist Community Guidance

The directorates in charge of all religion in Indonesia are very important institutions and their existence are to main religious harmony in Indonesia. Although the majority of Indonesians are muslims, the followers of other religions are protected and respected. To achieve such a goal, the Ministry of Religious Affairs created one Directorate for every admitted religious community in Indonesia.

The Missions of the Ministry of Religious Affairs

The existence of the Ministry of Religious Affairs becomes a very strategic and important for the realization of religious harmony. One of its great efforts is to conduct interfaith dialogue in Indonesia. It also provided a variety of activities to reduce misunderstandings and conflicts among different religious followers in Indonesia.

The Ministry formulated three types of harmony that must be observed by all Indonesian citizens who live in various islands. First, harmony among followers of the same religion. Second, harmony among followers of different religions. Third, harmony between the followers of religion and the government. Various programs have been carried out for years in order to realize those harmonies.

The Ministry also provides technical assistances to administer its units.

What is the unifying factor of Indonesia?



Pancasila has five principles (sila)

Pancasila has five principles (sila). The first is the foundation which brings together diversity in Indonesia. Its formula, which reads "belief in the only one God," is a guarantee and norms to practice religion. It allows all faithfuls from various tribes and regions in Indonesia to freely practice their religion.



Bhinneka Tunggal Ika

This phrase is derived from Sanskrit language meaning "diversity in unity." Diversity in religion, ethnicity, and language is not a barrier for their followers to live side by side. The Republic of Indonesia remains intact, unlike Yugoslavia, a country in Southeastern and Central Europe, which collapsed of ethnic wars.

Dear my friends, we know how vast Indonesian territory is, and how diverse the population is. This diversity does not ruin Indonesia. Therefore, this country is called NKRI (Unitary State Republic of Indonesia).



The independence of Indonesia was an achievement of many communities from different religions, ethnicities and tribes. Therefore, we have now national heroes from various backgrounds.

NATIONAL HEROES FROM DIFFERENT IDENTITIES

WOMEN



Cut Nyak Dhién
Christina Martha Tiahahu

ISLAM



KH. Ahmad Dahlan
KH. Hasyim Asy'ari

CATHOLICISM



Mrg. Soegijapranata, SJ
Ignatius Slamet Riyadi

PROTESTANTISM



Wolter Monginsidi
Yos Sudarso

BUDDHISM



Gatot Subroto
Soemantri MS

HINDUISM



I Gusti Ngurah Rai

LOCAL FAITH



Mr. Wongsonagoro

CONFUCIANISM



Rear Admiral John Lie

Gotong Royong: Indonesian Tradition of Cooperation

Indonesian community has practiced cooperation. They work together in order to achieve the common goal, without seeing

differences. In the district of Wanareja, Cilacap Regency, the Muslims helped rebuilding the ruined local church (Gereja Kristus Rohani Indonesia). When natural disasters occurred in several regions like the tsunamies in Aceh

(Sumatera island), Pangandaran (West Java, and Palu (Central Sulawesi), volunteers came from all over Indonesia. They gave help and assistance without looking at the tribe, language, and religion of those effected.

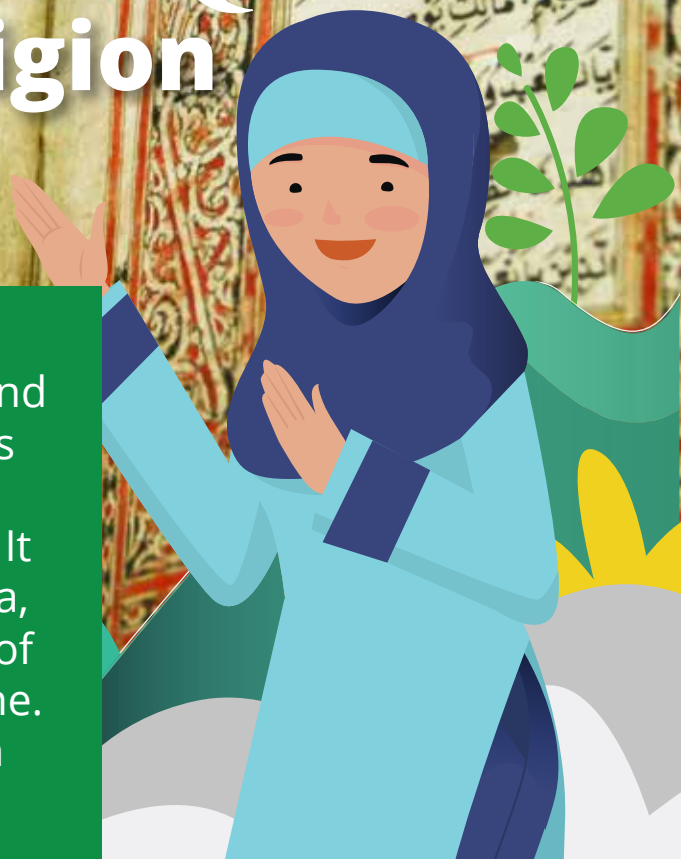




I am Zahra Aini,
I am Muslim
and I am 15
years old.

Islam: The Religion of Peace

Islam is a peaceful religion and it has the mission to bring peace and compassion to the world. Islam is Arabic word which has the same root as salâm and means peace. It developed in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and then spread to various part of the world in a relatively short time. The expansion of Islam has been carried out peacefully.



How did Islam come to Indonesia?

In the 6th century AD, Islam came to Indonesia through trade and marriage, without coercion or war. On the 14th century, several muslim preachers called “Wali Songo” propagated Islam by way of art, education and marriage to the entire of the archipelago. One of the Wali Songo was Sunan Kalijaga who has promoted Islam through puppet theatre art. Sunan Bonang, another figure of Wali Songo, taught Islam through javanese music and songs. The Wali Songo also managed to establish a number of Islamic kingdoms in Java Island and some outer islands.



Who is Allah?

As a Muslim, I believe in the only one God, called "Allah ". Every time I am going to begin my activities, I always call Him by reciting "bismillahir rahmanir Rahim, or "in the name of Allah, The all-beneficent and the all-Merciful." By doing so, I hope that I can spread love and compassion for all beings on earth. Allah has 99 names called Asmaul Husna (The Best Names). The all-beneficent and the all-Merciful are two of them which represent all attributes of Allah.

Who is Muhammad?

The Prophet Muhammad Be Peace upon Him (SAW) is the central figure in Islam to whom every Muslim obey and imitate his personality. He was born in Mecca, 517 AD. For us, He is the last and the Seal of all Prophets and Messengers whose arrival was to complete the teachings of all previous religions. He is a man of love and compassion, sent by God to disseminate blessings for the universe (rahmatan lil alamin). In a story it was told that the Prophet Muhammad SAW had regularly given food to a Jewish grandmother who hated him. Another story also said that a camel run and came to him due to a hunger because his owner rarely fed it. The Prophet then fed the camel and advises gently the owner. He was also very fond of children and always reminded his friends to speak softly to them.

What are the Sources of Islam

Islamic teachings are based on the Holy Quran and the Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad. The Holy Al-Quran is believed to be God's Words received by the Prophet Muhammad through revelation of 23 years. It consists of 114 chapters (sura) and is claimed to have completed the other previous holy books revealed by God. Hadith are deeds, words, decisions and confirmations of the Prophet Muhammad. Hadiths were recorded and compiled in hundreds, or even thousands of book.



What are the messages of the Quran?

Broadly speaking, the Quran is good tidings to the doers of good and warning to those who have wronged, the promise of heaven for Muslims who commit every duty of God, and a warning of disaster and hell for human who violates His command.

Most messages of the Quran are delivered in story form. For example,

in sura al-Baqarah, God told about the story of the Prophet Adam when he was in heaven before finally sent down to earth. In Surah Yusuf, God revealed the story of the Prophet Yusuf. In the Surah Al-Anbiya (Prophets), Allah told a number of other prophets. Two-thirds of the Quran are stories and the rest is about worship and community regulations. The verses which were revealed before migration of

Muhammad to Medina are known as Meccan suras, mostly about stories of previous communities and Islamic monotheism. On the other hand, verses about law and regulation are classified as Medinan verses, revealed after migration of Muhammad to Medina.



What are the main pillars of Islam?

When I was child, I've been taught about Islamic pillars in which every Muslim should adopt and practice them.

The Six Pillars of Faith:



Belief in Allah

Belief in Allah as the creator, guardian and regulator of the universe.



Belief in Angels

Belief in Angels as the creatures who live in heavenly realm and always obey the command of Allah.



Belief in the holy Scriptures

Belief in the holy Scriptures that He has sent down to the messengers. They are Zabur, Torah, Gospel, and Al-Qur'an.



Belief in His Messengers

Belief in His Messengers, 25 names of which Muslims have to know. They begin from The Prophet Adam to the Prophet Muhammad.



Belief in the Resurrection Day

Belief in the Resurrection Day. The world in which we live now would have a total destruction (doomsday). After that, all human would be resurrected and judged for their deeds during living in the world. The evildoers would be punished in hell, while the righteous would be in heaven.



Belief in the existence of God's predestination

Belief in the existence of God's predestination, whether it involves good or bad. Allah as regulator of the universe has determined various natural laws and the journey of human life.

The Five Pillars of Islam:

1

Creed

Testifying that there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His messenger.

4

Zakat

Giving part of our assets that have reached a certain calculation (nisab) every year for poor people.

2

Salah

Five daily prayers.

5

Haji

Making the pilgrimage to Mecca and the surrounding holy sites at least once in lifetime for the able Muslim.

3

Fasting

Fasting and self controlling during the holy Ramadhan month.





What does Assalamu Alaikum mean?

When we meet people, we say assalamu `alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh. This phrase means 'May the peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be with you.' This greeting is also recited when I finish the daily prayers. So, in a day we say this peaceful phrase up to dozens of time. The prophet ordered every Muslim to spread greetings of peace (afshus salam). Greetings does not only mean words, but also action. For example, when Muslims managed to conquer Mecca (Futuh Mecca), The Prophet Muhammad did take revenge against people who used to torture Muslims. They were even given forgiveness and guarantee of protection. In Indonesia, we have a similar peaceful atmosphere in certain regions such as the parking places of the Istiqlal Mosque and Cathedral Church. When parking space at the Istiqlal Mosque is full, we can use the parking space of the Cathedral and vice versa. This peaceful atmosphere also happened at other regions of Indonesia.



Where are Muslims performing prayers?

We Muslims perform prayers in the mosque. Mosque consists of simple room without a lot of bulk-heads and furniture like tables and chairs. Inside mosque is only carpet or mat for prayer. In the front are the Imam's room and the pulpit for sermons. During prayer everyone's status is equal. Whoever comes early, he has the right to pray in the first line (saf). However,

anyone comes late, he must sit in behind place. Every mosque must have a place of ablution, because ablution is a condition to do before performing prayer. The first mosque built was The Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. In addition to mosque, Muslims can also perform various worships at mushala, a building similar to a mosque but it has a smaller size.



Why do Muslims have to pray?

In a day, a Muslim has five obligatory prayers. Through reciting certain verses of the quran, phrases and some movements I perform prayer as a form of gratefulness and communication to Allah. I start praying by raising my hands and saying Allahu Akbar (Allah Great), symbol of submission and realization that we

are small creature before God. Then I bow as a symbol of obedience. There is also a prostration movement in which I put my face on the ground, a symbol of modesty. Prayer is closed with greeting and at the same time turning my face to right and left, a symbol of asking peace for people around us.



Grade of Prayers	Name of Prayers	Rakaat (Units)	Time
Obligatory	Isha	4	Dusk until dawn
	Subh	2	Dawn to sunrise
	Duhr	4	After true noon until Asr
	Ashr	4	Afternoon
	Maghrib	3	After sunset until dusk
Voluntary	Ba'diyah	2/4	After obligatory prayer
	Qabliyah	2/4	Before obligatory prayer
Partly Obligatory	Tahajjud	11	The middle/last part of the night
Voluntary	Dhuha	2- 8	When the sun has risen to the height of a spear, which is fifteen or twenty minutes after sunrise, until the sun passes its zenith
	Khusuf	2	At the time of a solar eclipse
	Husuf	2	At the time of a moon eclipse
	Istisqa	2	During drought and times of low rainfall.
	Janazah	4	When a muslim is dead
	Lidain	2	The first day after the fasting month and the tenth day of Dhul Hijjah Month

What Is Zakat?

In every provision that God gives to us there are parts of other people. That is why we have to share and distribute that portion. There are several ways of sharing the provision, such as giving zakat- alms and voluntary charity (sadaqah). By giving other rights that laid in our property to those who are entitled to receive it, then our property would be clean. By doing so, we are grateful for the blessings that God has given us. Allah promised that He will give blessings to anyone who thank for every provision and will multiply it. However, if we don't share some of our assets with the poor, then we would belong to the class of people who belie religion.



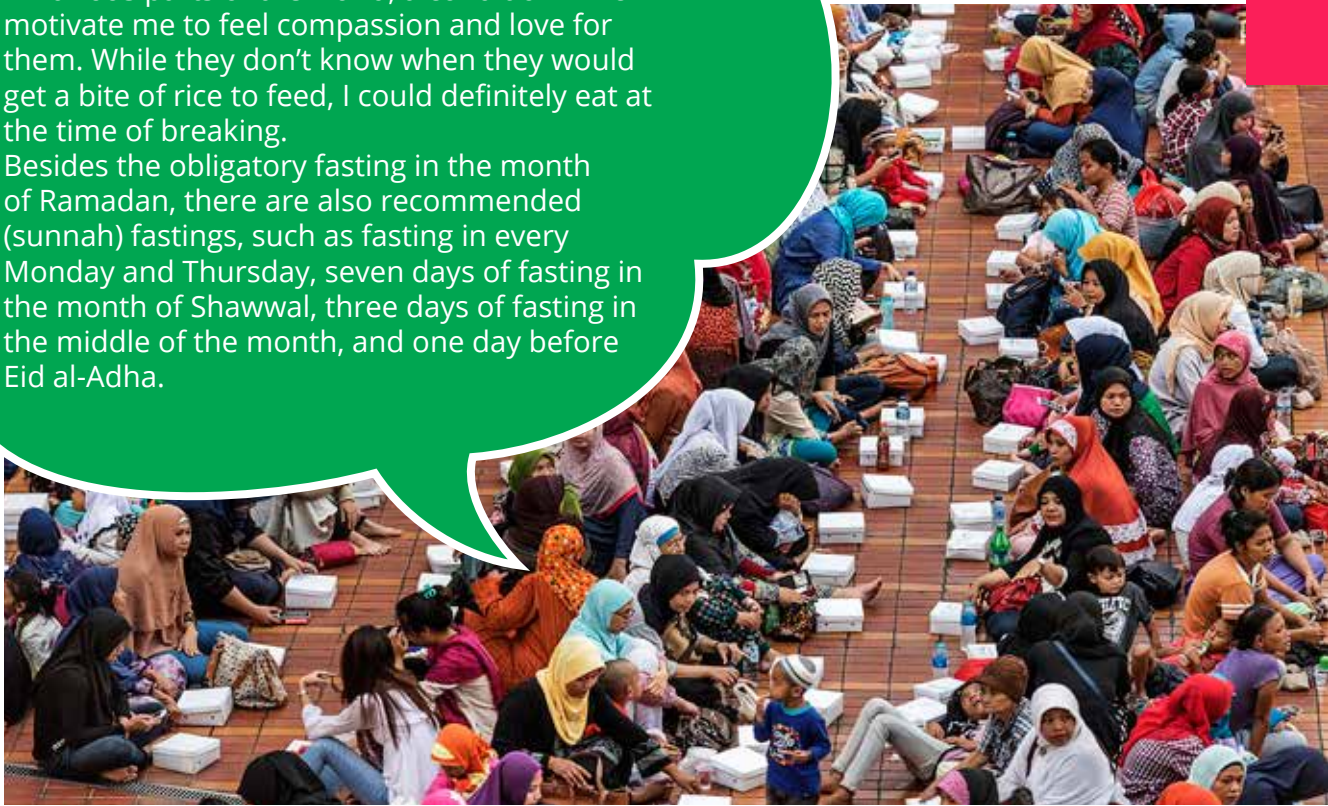
Why should Muslims Fast?



As Muslims, we are ordered to fasting during the month of Ramadan (according to the Islamic calendar). When fasting, I abstain from eating and drinking since dawn until the sun set. Empty stomach and hunger often makes me weak and sleepy. Being in such condition, however, I have to keep my spirit, as I have the starvation only in this month. During other months, I can satisfy my hunger.

By fasting, I would have empathy with the homeless, the needy, and starvation of people in various parts of the world, a condition which motivate me to feel compassion and love for them. While they don't know when they would get a bite of rice to feed, I could definitely eat at the time of breaking.

Besides the obligatory fasting in the month of Ramadan, there are also recommended (sunnah) fastings, such as fasting in every Monday and Thursday, seven days of fasting in the month of Shawwal, three days of fasting in the middle of the month, and one day before Eid al-Adha.



What is the Hajj to the Holy Land?

The Hajj is a symbol of unity of all Muslims, regardless of national origin, skin color, adopted school, and wealth. During performing the pilgrimage, we only use a piece of white cloth without stitching. The pilgrims move around the Ka'bah, like planets move around the sun. There is also the ritual of walking back and forth seven times between the two small hills of Safa and Marwa to remember the event of Ibrahim's second wife,



Hajar, who ran looking for water to her baby, the Prophet Ismail. The culmination of the Hajj ritual is standing in contemplation in the plain of Arafat at 9 Zulhijah. Arafat means knowing, so when we stand in the plain of Arafat, we are required to contemplate and introspect on ourselves and our Lord.

Why are there many schools and sects in Islam?

In every religion, no exception to Islam, we find there are many religious schools and sects. Why? One of reasons is that God, The Absolute, is not fully understood by the unabsolute human. Consequently, each school has different understanding of Islamic teachings as written in The Quran and Hadith. Each differently understands the same word. In Islamic history, we find schools which differently interpret theological matters, sufism (purifying the soul / mind to approach God), and jurisprudence (religious rules). At the political sphere, there are two major schools in Islam, Shiite and Sunni (Ahl Sunnah wal Jamaah). "The forerunner" of the Sunni school was Abu Hasan Al-Asy'ari. The majority of Muslims in Indonesia are Sunni followers with the Shafi'i school as main reference in the field of jurisprudence. As for theological aspect, Indonesian Islam generally adheres to Ash'ariyah and Maturidiah thoughts. In Sufism, they refer to Sunni Sufism, with Imam Al- Ghazali as the main figure.

The majority of the shiite followers are located in Iran. Their main jurisprudence is based on thought of Ja'fari. The differences between the Shiite and the Sunni are actually not too fundamental. The Shiites are found in Saudi Arabia (a Wahabi / Sunni majority country), while the Sunnis are also discovered in Iran (the county with Shiite majority). In many regions, both schools live side by side.

In Indonesia, there are two Sunnite Islamic organization which have many members, namely Muhammadiyah (born 1912) and Nahdlatul Ulama (born 1926). Both organizations, together with organization and figures from other religions, participate actively in development and consolidation of the Unitary State of the Republic Indonesia (NKRI). They also considered the NKRI as Darul Ahdi wasy-Shahadah, a country of agreement that must be guarded together.

MAP OF ISLAMIC DOCTRINE

	THEOLOGY	SUFI	JURISPRUDENCE	
i	Khawarij	Falsafi Sufism	Ja'fari	
	Shiite		- Al-Hallaj	Hanafi
	Jabariyah		- Bayazid Bastami	Maliki
	Qadariyah	- Ibn 'Arabi	Shafi'i	
	Murji'ah	Sunni Sufism	Hanbali	
	Mu'tazilah		- Al-Qushayri	
	Ash'ari		- Al-Harawi	
	Maturidi		- Al-Ghazali	
			Shiite Sufism	
		- Sayyid Haydar Amuli		
	- Fayd Al-Kashani			
	- Sayyid Jawadi Amuli			
	- Mohsen Fayd Kashani			



What are Religious Festivals in Islam?

Muslims have two great festivals, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice). Both are celebrated on Hijri calendar. The Eid Al-Fitr is celebrated on the 1st day of Shawwal and marked the success of conducting fasting during a full month of Ramadan. Eid Al-Adha is celebrated on 10 Dhulhijah. Besides these two festivals, Muslims also celebrate the beginning of Hijri year on the month of Muharam, the Birth Day of the Prophet Muhammad on the month of Rabiul Awal,

and the revelation of The Quran (Nuzulul Quran) in the middle of the month of Ramadan. There is also a celebration of Ascension of the Prophet Muhammad to seventh heaven in the month of Rajab.

Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha are performed at the mosque or in open-air locations. After prayer, Muslims usually will visit their relatives. At Eid Adha Festival, they sacrifice animals and distribute the meat. At the celebration of the New Year of Islam, Birth Day of the Prophet, and Revelation of the Quran, the main activities are

going to mosque to attending a lecture given by a religious leader, before carrying out prayer in congregation and sitting down to eat meals together.



What are Muslim Festivals in Indonesia?

There are many Islamic festivals in Indonesia:

1

Bedulang,
in Bangka
Belitung

It is the tradition of eating together in which dishes are covered with bedulang, a typical cap. The participant should eat by using hand because there is no spoon.



2

**Festival
Tumbilotohe,**
in Gorontalo

The participants would turn on the lights of kerosene and bring them to streets in the city of Gorontalo. The light facilitates the committee of zakat to distribute zakat charity at night before Eid al-Fitr celebration.

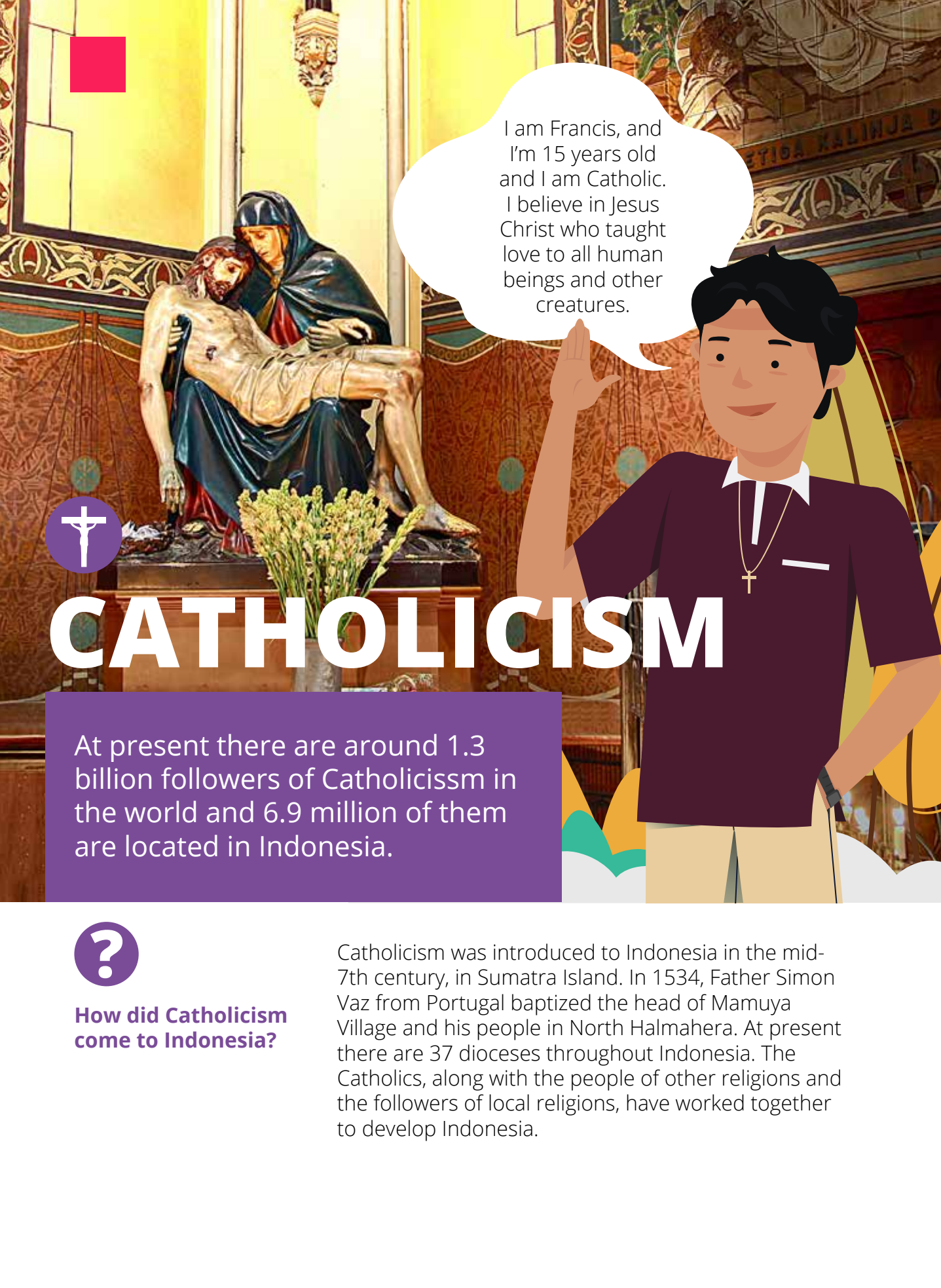
3

Ronjok Sayak,
in Bengkulu from
Serawai Tribe

The participants of this festival (from Serawai Tribe) arrange a piramide of coconut shells and then burn them in front of house.

**Find
out!**
the answer

1. Did you know the meaning of Islam?
2. How did the Prophet Muhammad apply compassion and love?
3. Why are there many schools and religious sects in Islam?
4. What are the Pillars of Faith and Pillars of Islam?



I am Francis, and I'm 15 years old and I am Catholic. I believe in Jesus Christ who taught love to all human beings and other creatures.



CATHOLICISM

At present there are around 1.3 billion followers of Catholicism in the world and 6.9 million of them are located in Indonesia.



How did Catholicism come to Indonesia?

Catholicism was introduced to Indonesia in the mid-7th century, in Sumatra Island. In 1534, Father Simon Vaz from Portugal baptized the head of Mamuya Village and his people in North Halmahera. At present there are 37 dioceses throughout Indonesia. The Catholics, along with the people of other religions and the followers of local religions, have worked together to develop Indonesia.



What is the Catholic Scriptures?

We believe that the scriptures were written by writers who had been guided by God. The scriptures tell how God tried to save humanity. The Catholic scriptures consist of two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The first has 46 books, beginning with the Book of Genesis (Book of Creation of the universe), Historical Books, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Amos. The New Testaments begin with four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), then Acts, Pauline Epistles, Catholic Epistles (James, Peter, John, Jude), and Apocalypse.

What is Trinity?

One characteristic of the Catholic faithfuls is that when they pray, they will start and end it by making a sign of the cross on their body and reciting, "In the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit". That movement is based on the idea that the central life and faith of Catholicism lie in the mystery of the Trinity. Catholics are baptized in the name of the Father

and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus taught His students to pray to God as the Father. The concept of the Holy Spirit and the Son are from Jesus's teaching. Jesus asserts that God is the Only One God. Therefore, the Trinity does not contradict with the faith in monotheism. God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one, their essence and act are inseparable.



What are the main teachings of Catholicism?

Catholicism emphasizes love, as taught by Jesus Christ "Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. That is the first and most important law. And the second law, which is the same, is: Love thy neighbor as yourself. "

How was the Catholic Church Born?

The word "Church" refers to people who are called by God to live in congregation. The church was founded and headed by Jesus Christ who was born in Bethlehem, Palestine, and taught love to humankind. Jesus has twelve apostles (also known as twelve which Simon or Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew Nathaniel, Thomas, Matthew Levi, James the less, Thaddaeus, Simon Zelotes, and Judas Iscariot.



Where do Catholics pray?

We Catholics usually pray in a place called church. The chapel is a room or building, a part of larger complex, used also for worship. We also sometimes worship at home or in other places. If we enter the Catholic Church, we can see some symbols that are typical of Catholicism, including the cross and the Body of Jesus, the statue of Jesus, the statue of the Virgin Mary, and the statue of other saints. We do not worship statues, but respect Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and other saints as role model.

In the Catholic Church there is also an altar and tabernacle. Altar is a table where you celebrate the Eucharist. In Catholicism, we believe that in the Celebration of the Eucharistic, holy hosts made from bread without yeast would turn into the Body of Christ. The Tabernacle is a place to store the Body of Christ in the form of a holy host; there are also lights of candles remind of the presence of God. Catholics, when entering the church, kneel for a moment toward the tabernacle to honor the presence of God.

What are the Seven Sacraments in Catholicism?

We Catholics believe that Jesus Christ established the sacrament as the means to experience God's grace. Catholicism recognized seven sacraments such as Baptism, Reconciliation/Peace (Penance or Confession), Eucharist (or Holy Communion), Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders, and Anointing the Sick. The task of sacraments was mandated by Jesus to the Church.



Some Titles and Names to call Jesus

Immanuel (Matthew 1: 23, "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Son of God (Luke 1:32, John 20: 31)

Savior (Luke 2: 11)

Christ (the anointed one, Luke 2: 11)

Messiah (John 20: 31)

God (Rome 9: 10, 1 Corinthians 12: 13)

What is Baptism?

Baptism is the gateway to being officially accepted as a member of the Catholic Church. At baptism Catholics will receive a baptismal name chosen from the saints, whose lives were recognized by the Church as having exceptional degree of holiness or likeness or closeness to God.



"I used the baptismal name Francis, adopted from Saint Francis of Assisi in Italy, whose life was full of simplicity and he became a friend of the poor. I was baptized by a Catholic priest who poured water over my head while saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

What is the Sacrament of Peace?

One of the characteristics of Catholics is the habit of receiving the Sacrament of Peace, where the evildoer confesses his sins and asks forgiveness to God before a Catholic priest. The Sacrament of Peace is also known as the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Sacrament of Penance, Sacrament of Forgiveness of Sin, or Sacrament of Confession of Sin. Its justification is Jesus' words to the apostles, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, their sins are forgiven, and if you declare someone's sin to remain, his sin will remain."

What is the meaning of Mass or Sacrament of the Eucharist?

Catholics have an obligation to go to church on Sunday and on major holidays they have to attend mass of the Eucharist. We believe that it was Jesus Christ who established the Eucharistic Sacrament at the supper last night before Jesus died by stating, "This is My Body, which is given for you, do this as a reminder of Me."

The Eucharist is the source and culmination of the Christian life. In it, we remember Jesus Christ who gave his whole life to die on the cross because His love to humankind. In various churches, Mass of the Eucharistic is not compulsarily conducted on normal days, although it is recommended for Catholics to follow it. Mass of the Eucharistic may be held at home or elsewhere.

What is the Position of the Virgin Mary in the Catholic Church?

Another characteristics of Catholicism is the great respect for the Virgin Mary, or the mother of Jesus who conceived through the Holy Spirit. She was given the title Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church. There are various prayers, worship, songs, pictures, sculptures, pilgrimage sites, and celebrations associated with the Virgin Mary with the aim of honoring and following Her as role model. One of the most frequent prayers for the Virgin Mary is the rosary prayer.

What are the Catholic Festival?

The most important festival is the Passover, where we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Other celebrations before the Easter Celebration are Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday. Easter holiday, which is celebrated on Sundays, is usually preceded by the Easter Night Celebration on Saturday afternoon or evening. After Easter, there is a Feast of Ascension and the Day of Pentecost.

Another important day is Christmas, which is the celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ on December 25. There are various traditions during the Christmas celebration, such as making Christmas cages, decorating Christmas trees, sending Merry Christmas greetings, and celebrating Christmas with family and other social groups.

Besides Easter and Christmas, other Catholic festivals are Solemnity of Mary-Mother of God, Ehipany, Saint Joseph's Day, Corpus Christi, Sacred Heart, Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Assumption of Mary, All Saints' Day, and Feast of Christ the King.





Indonesian Catholic Traditions

A. Easter

1 *The way of the cross,* on Mount Gandul, Wonogiri

The Way of the Cross on Mount Gandul, Wonogiri, is stations where the Catholic faithful walk up the hill while contemplating the suffering of Jesus, beginning from being sentenced to death, crucified, until dying on the cross. During Christmas festival, there are persons representing the key figures such as Jesus who carries a large cross, the Virgin Mary, apostles of Christ's disciples, Roman soldiers, and other figures, and this procession help the faithful understand more deeply Jesus' suffering.

2

Procession of Semana Santa, in Larantuka, East Flores

Semana Santa comes from the words semana (week) and santa (saint). The celebration begins on Wednesday to commemorate Judas Iscariot's betrayal of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. On Thursday, the faithful put candles along the procession of the Good Friday. The statue of the Virgin Mary, called Madame Ma, be cleaned with water and given mourning clothes by a special officer. The statue of the Virgin Mary was then reunited with the Statue of Jesus who named Mr. Menino. The two statues, which were stored in two different churches, are now paraded through hundreds of people riding motorboats. Ten thousands of Catholics from various regions in Indonesia deliberately came to follow Semana Santa processions.



B. Christmas

1 *Rabo-Rabo,*
Tugu Village,
Jakarta

After completing worship in the church, Catholics will pay visit to the other faithfuls. They usually also bring and play musical instruments. The celebration will end with bathing in colorful powder as a symbol of penance and forgiveness.

2 *Marbinda,*
North
Sumatra

The participants will collect money to buy animals for sacrifice, such as buffaloes, cows, or pigs. The meat of those animals will be distributed equally to all members of community.

3 *Taan's Key
or Lock,*
Manado

Catholics in Manado celebrate Christmas since December 1st. The youth hold long march of sinterklaas who bring presents for children and clothes during a week.



- 1.** How do Catholics pray?
- 2.** Do you know two titles of the Virgin Mary?
- 3.** What are the activities during the Christmas celebration? Invite your friends to tell beautiful memories of Christmas celebration!
- 4.** Why does Jesus have the Messiah title? On which bible is it stated? Let's look at the bible!



I am Ruth, I'm 15 years old and I am Protestant. I believe in God who through Jesus Christ saved the world from the penalty of sin.



PROTESTANTISM

Every Christian is invited by Jesus Christ to love God and human beings with all his heart, all his soul, and all his mind as we love ourselves. Now there are around 920 million Protestant the world in which 16.5 million live in Indonesia.

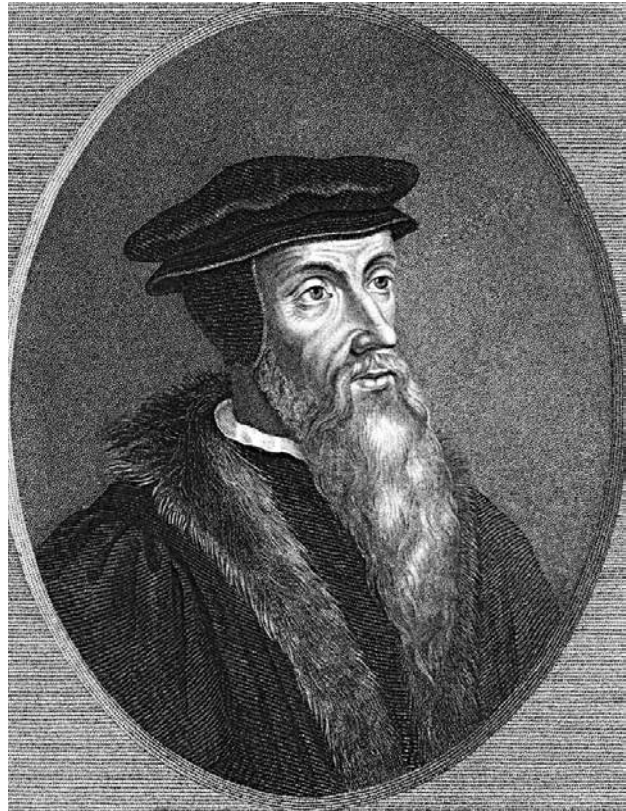


Who are the Pioneers of Protestantism?

The most famous pioneers of Protestantism were Martin Luthern (born in Eisleben, Germany, on November 10, 1483) and John Calvin (born in Noyon France, July 10, 1509). October 31, 1517 was confirmed as the birthday of the Protestan Church or commonly known as the Reformation Church. The Reform was essentially a renewal of Church teachings and practices.



▲ Martin Luther



▲ Johannes Calvin

What is the Protestant Concept of God?

Every Christian believes that God is the only one God. In His essence, God reveals himself as the creator of the universe. God is also the savior of humankind from the punishment of sin; He is Savior through Jesus Christ, the Son, and He accompanies the Church in the world through Holy Spirit. We worship the one God who introduces himself as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and this divine concept was formulated in Trinitarianism.

Who is the priest in Protestantism?

Priest is our leader, be male or female. He/she is ordained in front of a congregation. His/her task is delivering the word of God, teaching Christian doctrines, pasturing the people, praying for people who are sick or having problems in life, and serving the sacrament and baptism. By

conducting such duties, the protestant people could carry out God's commands, such as realizing a life of peace, justice and harmony with

other human beings. In Protestantism, a priest is allowed to marry and has a family.



What are the variety of Protestant Sects in Indonesia?

Since the time of Martin Luther and Joh Calvin, various sects appeared in Protestantism such as Adventist, Anglican, Baptist, Bethel, Charismatic, Pentecostal Methodist, Presbyterian, Reformed, Anabaptist,

and so on. They were born due to the different interpretations of the Bible. Each sect has its own church.

To maintain unity among these sects, the Council of Churches in Indonesia (DGI) was established,

which is now called the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI), based in Jakarta.

What are the Protestant Rituals?

In Protestantism, there are generally three rituals, namely worship, fasting, and the sacrament.



1

First, Protestant services are held on Sunday. In the service, there is a liturgy, which is a guide on how to worship God. In the beginning, the faithfuls sing a song glorifying God, and after they receive the greeting of God delivered by the priest, they sing again the song of God's majesty. The faithfuls then confess sins, sing songs of repentance and recite commitments to have a righteous life. In the next session, the participants listen to the sermon of priest. They also express gratitude by giving donation. The ceremony is closed by singing songs.

2

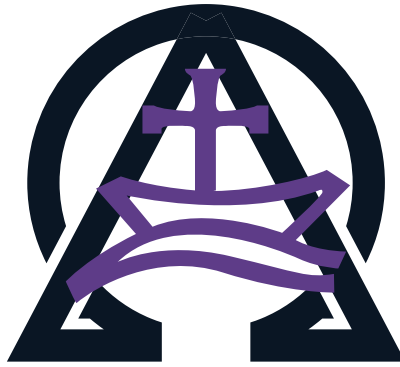
Second, fasting in Protestantism is usually performed during 40 days before the Easter celebration. This ritual is aimed at reflecting on the work of God who saved humankind through Jesus Christ. During the fasting of 40 days, the faithfuls do not eat and drink or they abstain from certain unrecommended activities until the Easter period arrives.

3

Third, sacrament is a ritual to feel God's grace. Through sacrament of baptism, the faithful is invited into the grace of God and enter into a holy union with God, and the faithful becomes members of the Church of Jesus Christ. The sacrament of the communion invites the participant to remember and live the sacrifice of Jesus Christ who saved the world, by eating bread and drinking wine. In some areas bread and wine are adapted to the daily diet of the local people. For example, some churches in Salatiga, Central Java, replaced bread with getuk (Javanese dish made from cassava) and wine with ginger water (wedang jahe).

What are the main teachings of Protestantism?

Protestantism put the law of love as the basis of all laws, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' (Matthew 22: 37-39). In other words, the basic protestant laws are related to regulating the relations of the people with God and the relations of the people with others.



What are Protestant Characteristics?

The general Protestant characteristics can be identified with the symbol of the cross and alpha omega letters, and the greetings of shalom, which means 'peace for you'. The cross symbol is usually represented in the form of necklaces, earrings, pictures on t-shirts and other accessories. Some institutions such as schools, hospitals, and orphanages also put cross symbol in their buildings. The Alpha Omega letters are a symbol stating that Jesus Christ is eternal, usually written on ties, pins, church building, and others. Finally, Protestants would say "shalom" or "salam", which means 'Peace be with you when they meet their fellow faithfuls'.

What is baptism?

Baptism is a sacrament in which the faithfuls are invited into the grace of God in order to have a holy union with Him. It is a sign that people are members of a Church. The ritual is conducted by sprinkling water on the person's forehead as many as three times. In some churches, the baptized person immerse his/her entire body into a pool of water, a symbol that someone has been purified by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism is carried out by a priest in the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



How do Protestants pray?

Prayer is believed to be a way in which the faithfuls direct and surrender their lives to God. This means that prayer is not just asking for the fulfillment of all our needs, but also guidance from God; in prayer, we will have commitment to realize God's will, such as peace, justice, and the welfare of all people on earth. In general there is no standard way of praying. A common characteristic is to put our hands together, sit or bow, lower our head, close our eyes and recite a certain phrase. Christians usually pray at a convention center, a place devoted to prayer, in a room where the door is locked, or anywhere else as long as the environment supports the atmosphere of ritual. Some prayers are often invoked by Christians, such as the Lord's Prayer taught by Jesus Christ, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom comes. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." The most important thing in prayer is we direct our hearts to God.

What is the Prayer Procedure in Protestantism?

In general there is no place considered as sacred by Protestants. All places, all material objects in the world are believed to be nothing more than a means of living or expressing our faith in God.

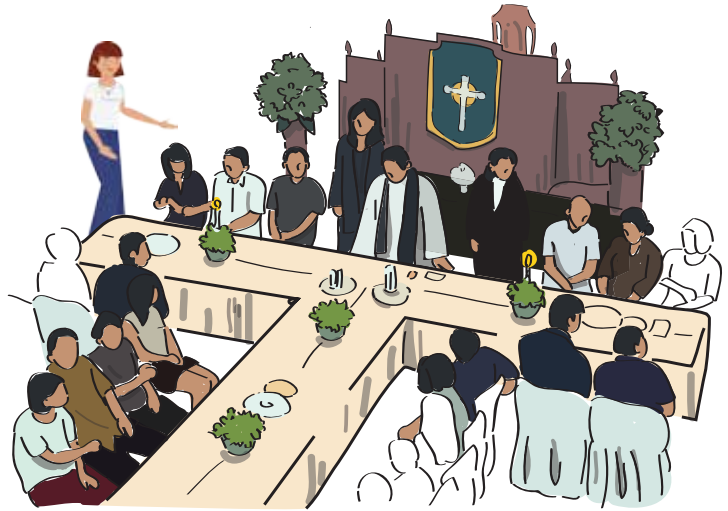


How did Protestantism Come to Indonesia?

Protestantism was firstly introduced in Indonesia by the Dutch in the early 16th century with Calvinist and Lutheran orientations by the missionaries (people in charge of spreading Christianity) in the eastern parts of the country, such as Maluku, Toraja, Nusa Tenggara, Papua, and before moving westward to Kalimantan and Java and Sumatra. They established hospitals and schools and translated the Bible into Malay and regional languages in Indonesia. In the 20th century Protestantism has great followers. Today, in addition to Calvinist and Lutheran sects, there are approximately 90 Protestant sects, all of which are incorporated into the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI). They lived across Indonesia and made contribution to the development of this country.

Where can we find Protestant communities Indonesia?

Protestants are found in all provinces of Indonesia



What are Protestant Holidays?

As a Protestant, I celebrate Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension of the Lord Jesus, and Pentecost. Christmas Day festival is carried out towards the end of the year, which is on December the 25th. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Churches and houses of Christians are usually decorated with pine trees and twinkling lights. Ritual of Christmas is observed in church, at home or in open-air location in which participants sing christmas carols, pray and listen to Christmas sermon.

Good Friday is the commemoration day of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross before Easter (Sunday). Usually we contemplate on how Jesus Christ suffered after being tried unjustly, spit on, beaten, and crucified. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross is the atonement of human sins. We recall him at the church service. Easter is the feast of the resurrection of Jesus Christ



from His death. On Easter Day many Christians perform worship at dawn, around 4.30. This service is full of joy, full of energetic songs; in some Churches, Easter is celebrated with the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and Baptism.

The Ascension of Jesus Christ to heaven is celebrated 40 days after Easter Day, by holding service in church, signifying that Jesus Christ became King in heaven and in the world.

Pentecost is the day of the descent of the Holy Spirit, 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a sign of the birth of Christians, namely people who are led to live by the example of Jesus Christ. In some churches, this Pentecostal day is also used as a celebration of harvest where people usually donate money and share crops, such as rice, vegetables, fruits and others. This is very unique.



1. What are the three Protestant rituals?
2. What are the Protestant sects? What sect do you and your friends belong to?
3. At Christmas, what do you celebrate? Let's talk about the beauty of Christmas Festivals!
4. What are the contents of the Christian Scriptures? Let's discuss one of them!



BUDDHISM

In Indonesia, Buddhism developed well, managed to establish many kingdoms such as the Kingdom of Srivijaya, the Kingdom of Syailendra, and many others. The number of Buddhists in Indonesia is currently around 1.7 million.

I am Windu, I'm 16 years old and I am a Buddhist. My religion was taught by Sidharta Gautama.



What is the early phase of Buddhism?

Buddhism was born in India. This name is taken from the word Buddha. Gautama's life was a source of inspiration for the birth of this religion. Buddhism spread to a number of countries, including Indonesia. The presence of Buddhism in Indonesia were demonstrated by a number of ancient monuments in Java and Sumatra, including Muaro Jambi Temple and Borobudur in which each was built in the 7th and 8th centuries.



Some examples of Buddhist kingdoms in Indonesia:

Name of Kingdom	Location	Year of Rule	Renown Ruler
Kalingga	Central Java	6 AD	Queen Shima
Sriwijaya	South Sumatra	7 AD	King Srijayanegara
Syailendra Dynasty	Central Java	7 AD	King Syailendra



The Syailendra dynasty built Borobudur temple between 780 and 840 AD based on Mandala style that symbolizes the universe in Buddhism. The structure of this building is square with four entry points and a circular center point. At Borobudur Temple we will find many groups of reliefs which can be divided into three zones. The first zone is called Kamadhatu, where 160 reliefs depict

the Karmawibhangga Sutra scene or the law of cause and effect. The second zone is Rupadhatu, carved stone and niche chains with Buddha statues inside them. In total there are 328 Buddha statues. The third zone is Arupadhatu or the highest sphere,

where the gods live. There are also 72 hollow stupas, shaped like inverted bells, containing Buddha statues facing out.



10 provinces with significant number of Buddhists:



- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Jakarta | 5. Riau | 8. East Java |
| 2. North Sumatra | 6. Riau Islands | 9. South Sumatra |
| 3. West Kalimantan | 7. West Java | 10. Central Java |
| 4. Banten | | |

Who is God in Buddhism?



We call God by a number of names, such as Tathagatagarba (Mahayana Version), Tridarma (Thian Version), Nam-myoho-renge-kyo (Nichiren version), and Aisvarika Sang Hyang Adi Buddha, a name commonly used by Mahayana Buddhists in Indonesia. God in Buddhism is conceptualized as a perfect emptiness. The Essences who give sustenance, regulate nature, and other duties are called gods and Bodhisattvas. These gods are previously ordinary humans who experienced misery but have managed to liberate themselves. They are long-lived but not eternal. Sakyamuni and Maitreya were the most well-known Bodhisattva according to Theravada sects, while three important Bodhisattvas in Mahayana sects are Shakyamuni, Bhaisajyaguru, and Amitabha.



Sakyamuni



Maitreya



Bharsajaguru



Amitabha

Dewi Kwan Im is Indonesian name for Kwan She Im Phosat, Goddess of love, while Jiu Tian Xian Nu is goddess who taught humans on how to plant crops. Maha Brahma Sahampati is the greatest deity, considered as Godhead who moves the universe.



Kuan She Yin Phu Sa

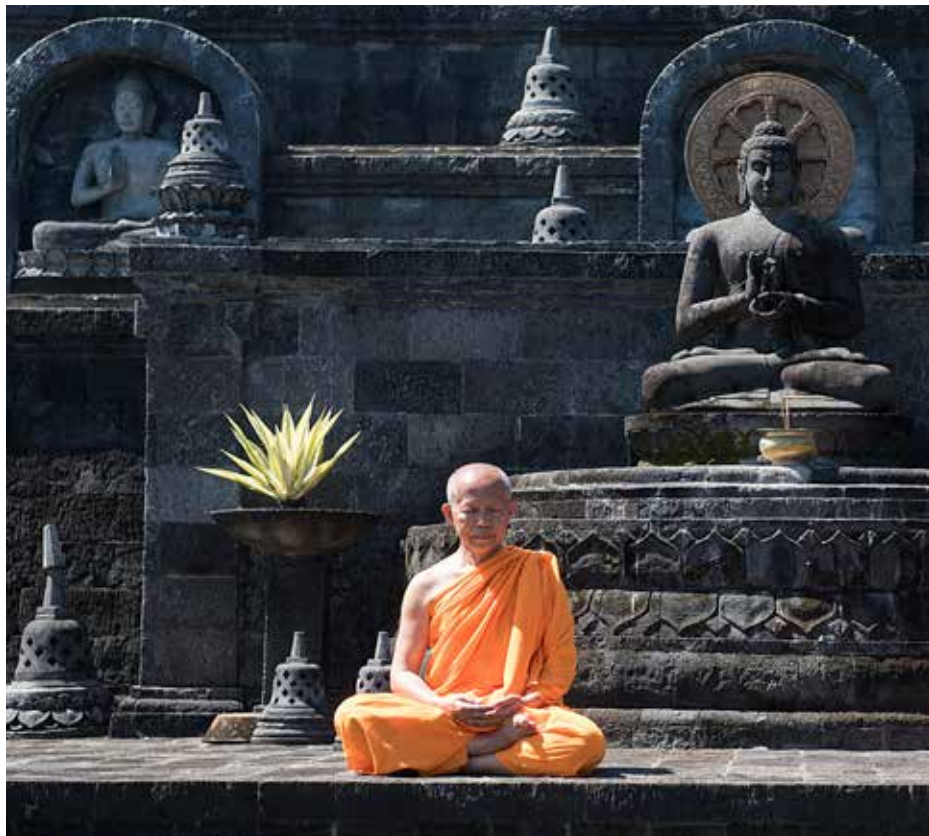
How did Sidharta Gautama achieve Enlightenment?

Sidharta Gautama is teacher and founder of Buddhism. He was the son of king Suddhodana of the clan Shakya, born in Nepal, 563 BC. At the age of 29, he decided to leave his palace, and chose the path of life as an ascetic. At the age of 35, he achieved enlightenment, from which he spread Buddhism, a teaching of love.

Sidharta Gautama laid down four prasyta, namely trying to help all beings, rejecting all the worldly desires, studying, contemplating, and practicing the Dharma, and trying to achieve Enlightenment.

What is the Buddhist Scriptures?

The Buddhist people believe in Tripitaka. Tri means three, and Pitaka means teaching. This Tripitaka describes three teachings, i.e. the Pitaka Sutra which contains a Buddhist sermon on



the Dharma, the Vinaya Pitaka concerning rules of monkhood, and the Abhidhamma Pitaka, which is an in-depth analysis of the Buddha's teachings, including basic physics, psychology, logic and ethics.

In Buddhism, there are several sects, as result of different interpretation of the Tripitaka texts, such as Theravada and Mahayana. The first is a school which strives to safeguard the values and teachings of the

Vinaya Pitaka while the second tried to interpret these teachings into local cultures and traditions.





Where do the Buddhist faithfuls pray?

We pray in the monastery, a beautiful building which is full of ornaments and various god statues. In addition to the monastery, the Buddhists may worship at their homes, without having to be led by a monk. For a big celebration such as Vesak however, worship is carried out together in a wider place, such as area of Borobudur Temple.

Borobudur Temple is a cultural heritage created by the Kingdom of Syailendra, located in Magelang Regency, Central Java. Although Borobudur Temple is a Buddhist place of worship, it has been a tourist destination for other religious people from within and outside the country. The Buddhist people do not question the presence of followers of other religions, even welcome them with great hospitality. They are available to explain friendly and politely the stories carved in the walls of Borobudur Temple.





What do the Buddhist faithfuls do in their prayer?

The Buddhists believe that offering flowers and incense is a form of offering respect, worship, and gratitude. The offering is followed by reciting religious verses that remind of the noble qualities of the Buddha. The Buddhists usually carry out communal worship every week. Individual (private) prayer might be observed in the morning and evening at home, at monastery, or at temple.

What are Festivals of Buddhism?

The Borobudur temple was stipulated by the Indonesian government as the center of celebration of the Vesak Festival. It is to commemorate three important moments of Sidharta Gautama's life, namely his birth, his illumination, and his death. The name for this festival might be different from one country to another. In India it is

known as Visakah Puja/ Buddha Purnima. In Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka it is called Vesak, while Tibet Buddhists call it Saga Dawa.

Three Activities of Vesak ceremony in Indonesia:

1. Taking holy water from Jumprit springs in Temanggung Regency, and lighting torch with fire taken from eternal sources on Mrapen Mountain, Grobogan Regency;
2. Pindapatta or ritual of donating vegetarian food to monks;
3. Samadhi at the time of full moon as mark of Vesak summit.



Other festivals included Asadha Day, Kathina Day, and Maghapuja Day.

- **Asadha Day** is held on July as an honor of the Buddha's first sermon.
- **Kathina Day** aims at providing food for the Buddhist monks.
- **Maghapuja Day** is held on February and March to commemorate the gathering of four factors.

**Find
out**
the answer



1. How do Buddhists call their God?
2. Who is Sidharta Gautama?
3. How do Buddhists celebrate their festivals?
4. What are Buddhist teachings on harmony with followers of other religions?
5. Where do Buddhists worship?



Om swastiastu ...
I am Ida Ayu from
the Island of Gods,
Bali. I am one of the
3.2 million Hindus
who live in Bali.

HINDUISM

Indian Hinduism
Indonesian Hinduism
Balinese Hinduism

Of the 4 million Hindus in Indonesia, 80% live in Bali, the rest resides in various provinces. Hinduism is referred to as one of the oldest religions in the world, born in southern Asian countries, India and Nepal.



What is the divine concept of Indonesian Hinduism?

Trimurti is the Triple deity of supreme divinity in Hinduism which has the cosmic functions of creation, maintenance, and destruction. They are personified as a triad of deities, typically Brahma the creator, Vishnu the preserver, and Shiva the destroyer or Pralina, which means bringing back to the origin. Each of them is also called deva, from the Sanskrit syllable "div" which means "light". These three functions are considered the highest because they



cover the process of the existence of all things in the universe. All of the universe come from nothing, going through the process of creation (Brahma) in order to exist (the process of maintenance by Vishnu) and finally return to nothing (Shiva). Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva are each represented by the Letter A, U, and M. If combined, the three letters become AUM, and read as OM. Thus OM is letters symbolizing the essence of all existence. That is why all Hindu prayers begin with the word OM, which is interpreted as God.

What are the Hindu Scriptures?

The Hindu scriptures are Vedas, believed to be revealed to many Maharishi over a very long period. Some say that the oldest Vedas appeared since 10,000 BC. The very many vedas are then codified by Maharshi Vyasa and has been taught from generation to generation in various lines of college. Vedas are of two types, Sruti and Smrti. Sruti is the most authoritative religious texts, directly received by the Maharsi who had spiritual enlightenment with very long yoga discipline. The Sruti includes the four vedas namely Rig Veda (hymns, commentaries on liturgy, ritual and mystical exegesis), Yajurveda (prose mantras for worship rituals), Samaveda (melodies and chants) and Atharvaveda (procedures for everyday life, mantras for magic). Each of the vedas is further divided into Mantram, Brahmanas (prayers for the Yadhya ceremony) and Upanishads (divine philosophy). Smrti are human thoughts in response to the śrutis. Bhagavad Gita is the last veda of fifth vedas (Panchamaveda). Other Hindu texts are Mahabharata and Ramayana, as well as Purana (Books of Ancient Histories).

What are the basic beliefs of Hinduism?

Five Principles of Hinduism or Panca Sradha:

1

Belief in Brahman (God)

Brahman or God is the highest object of worship in Hinduism. Balinese Hindus call their God by many names such as Ida Sang Hyang Widhi Wasa, Sang Hyang Acintya, Brahman, Brahma, Wisnu, Shiva, Rudra, Parama Iswara, Puang Matua, and other thousands of names.

2

Belief in Atman

Atman is reflection of Brahman. If Brahman is portrayed as ocean, then atman is a drop of water. Both are similar; if Brahman is air that fills the universe, atman is air in a bottle.

3

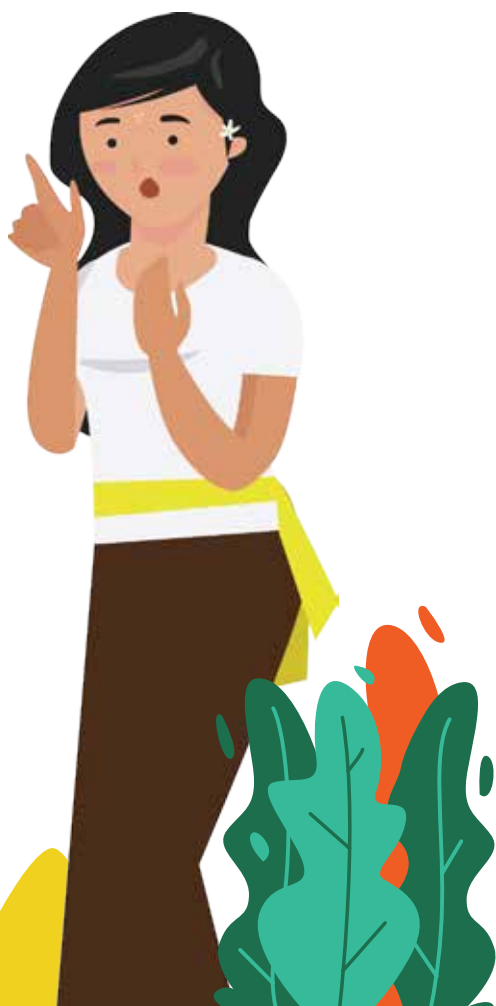
Karma

“Karma” means action and fruit, so karma is the fruit of our action. Each of our actions will have consequences. With this concept, we control our daily lives as each of our evil doings will have a bad effect on us. And vice versa.



4 *Belief in Punarbhava (Reincarnation/ rebirth).*

This concept is related to atman and karma doctrines. Atman is eternal, but when it entered the body and become a life-giving substance, it is bound by the law of karma, responsible for the actions it controls. Our awareness is truly an atman awareness that becomes our soul. When we die, our body will melt and back into its constituent matter, while the atman continues his actions through rebirth in the new body. Like humans changing clothes, so atman changes bodies, through birth after birth, migrating from the simplest consciousness to divine consciousness before reuniting with the creator.



5 *Belief in Moksha*

Moksha is the union of Atman with Brahman. Life begins with very simple awareness of the body. Through life after life, birth after birth, consciousness increases together with the quality and form of the body. Being human is the peak of consciousness and, if nurtured spiritually, it will achieve divine consciousness. When atman reaches divine consciousness, it would unite with Brahman and the cycle of reincarnation stops. Moksha is also called mukthi, which means liberation.

Some Key Doctrines of Hinduism

1

Tat twam asi

Tat twam asi means “I am you”. In another word, that self (atman) is identifiable with the Ultimate Reality (Brahman) who dwells in all phenomena. When I love you as much as you love me, you actually loved God. Subhasita vedas taught “whoever you respect, that respect will come to God. Whoever you despise, the insult will come to God”, because all of the universe is a manifestation of God.

2

Panca Yama and Panca Niyama Brata

Panca Yama Brata is five self-disciplines which include ahimsa (no harm), brahmacari (learning steadily to seek knowledge), Satya (honesty, loyalty), Aavyaharika (not much enjoying the world) and Asteya (not claiming other’ rights). Panca Niyama Brata is five mentally self-

controls to achieve inner purity, including Akrodha (not getting angry), Guru Susrusa (giving respect to four teachers, including God, parents, government, and teachers of school), Sauca (clearness of mind), and Aharalagava (live moderately), Apramada (conscientious).



3

Catur Paramita

Catur Paramita means four guidelines to interacting with all beings, including Maitri (friendly), Karuna (compassion), Mudita (sympathetic or vicarious joy), and Upeksa (unwavering or stay neutral in the face of good and bad, loss and gain).





What are festivals in Hinduism

Hinduism does not have international festivals in which all group of Hindus from any ethnicity and nations celebrate. This is because Hindu teachings are spiritual in nature, and the Vedas texts do not regulate the festival day. Festivals are thus only considered as a celebration of local wisdoms or events, in which they are enriched by Vedas-inspired divine concepts. Some Hindu local festivals include Galungan, Kuningan, Saraswati (all are celebrated in Bali), Kasodo (only celebrated in Tengger), and Nyepi (it is celebrated in all regions of Indonesia). Each of these festivals

represents history or local events, which reminds of ancestral cultures and historical roots. Take Galungan Festival as an example. It is the celebration of the mythic battle of Ida Bathara against the giant Mahayena who will destroy the earth. The battle was won by Ida Bathara. Thus Galungan Day is interpreted as a commemoration of the victory of the Dharma (truth) against Adharma (Evil).





Nyepi Day or Day of Silence is a ritual to mark New Year according to Balinese Saka Calendar. In contrast to many activities welcoming New Year of Gregorian calendar, Balinese Hindus celebrate the new year with silence. All activities must be stopped. Therefore, during Nyepi Day, the island of Bali is very quiet. There are no lights. Vehicles are not allowed to pass by, even the flights are not available. During that day, Balinese Hindus purify

Bhuana Alit (human nature/ microcosmos) and Bhuana Agung/macrocosmos (universe). They carry out four types of self-restrictions (catur Brata).

Catur Brata

Amati Geni:	No fire or light, including no electricity
Amati Karya:	No working
Amati Lelunganan:	No travelling
Amati Lelanguan:	No revelry/self-entertainment



Where do Balinese Hindus Worship?



Balinese Hindus have beautiful buildings called pura where they pray three times a day, in the morning, in the afternoon and in the evening. Almost every house has its own temple. When you visit Bali Island, do not be surprised on the number of temples which might count thousands, the largest of which is Pura Besakih.







What is Ngaben?

Ngaben is a ceremony of purification of the spirit by cremating bodies using fire, both real fire as a means to burn bodies, as well as symbolic fire by sprinkling holy water of tirtha pamralina and tirtha pangentas. Ngaben, which should be observed with sincerity and honor to the dead, is often interpreted as liberating the spirit of the

deceased in order that it goes back to Brahma-loka, where Brahma is residing as God the creator.



What are religious sects in Hinduism?

The arrival of Hinduism never changed local beliefs. Instead it strengthened and enriched them by Vedic philosophy. By doing so, the local community could preserve the ancestral cultural heritage, and at the same time they refine their *sradha* (faith). In many regions, Hindus have demonstrated their uniqueness such as what we saw in Balinese Hindus, Javanese Hindus, Kaharingan Hindus, Tengger Hindus, and Holotang Hindus.

HINDU KINGDOMS IN INDONESIA

KING
PURNAWARMAN

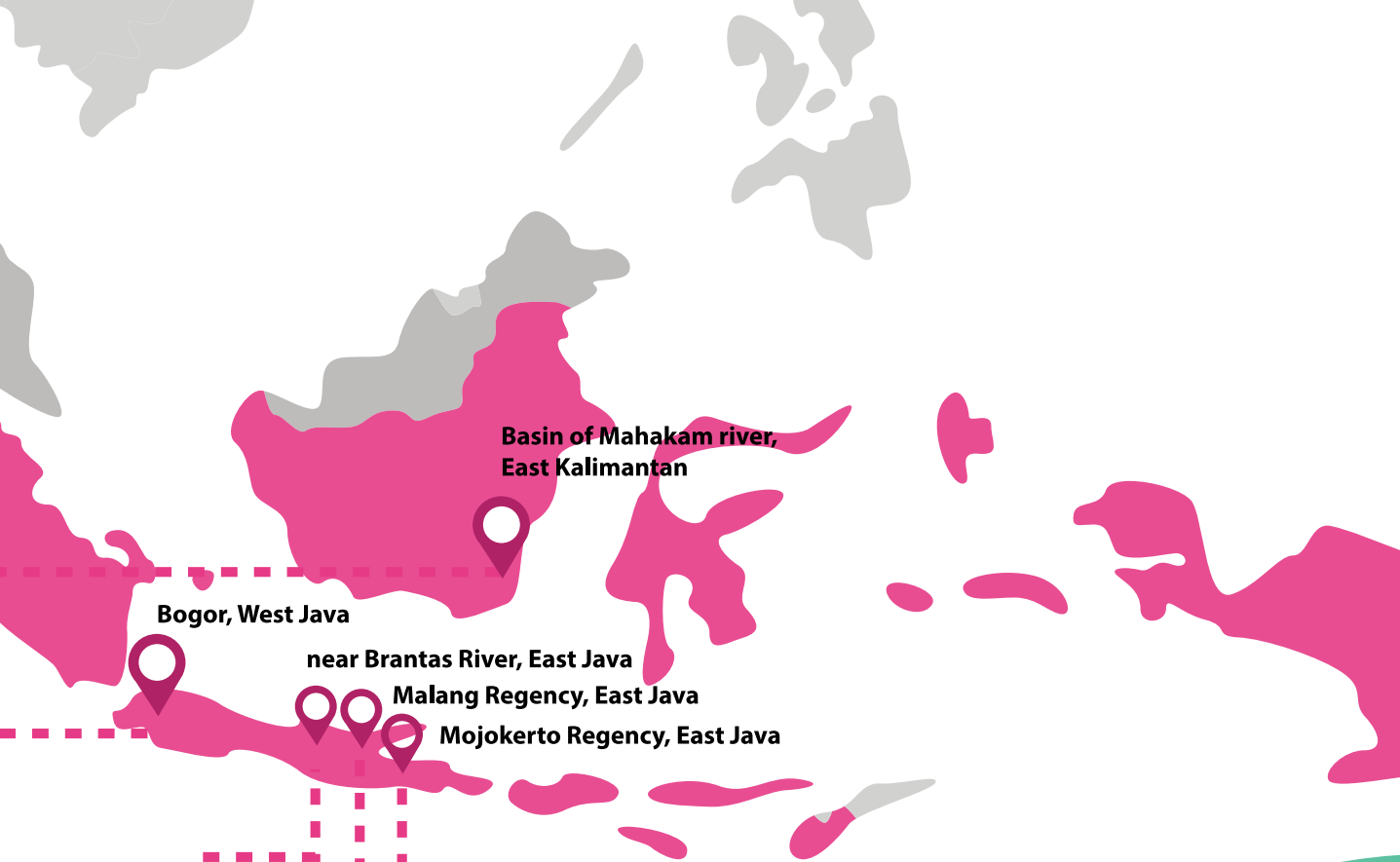
KING
MULAWARMAN



Tarumanegara
Kingdom



Kutai
Kingdom



**Basin of Mahakam river,
East Kalimantan**

Bogor, West Java

near Brantas River, East Java

Malang Regency, East Java

Mojokerto Regency, East Java

**KING
SRI MAHARAJA
SIRIKAN
KAMESWARA**

**KING
KEN AROK**

**KING
HAYAM
WURUK**



**Kediri
Kingdom**



**Singosari
Kingdom**



**Majapahit
Kingdom**



Which one is Hindu Temple?

In Indonesia there are many historical temples, some reflect Hindu features while others have Buddhist characteristics. Hindu temples functioned as tomb of kings. The main part of the Hindu temple consisted of Bhurloka, Bhuwahloka, and Swahloka. Compared to Buddhist temples, Hindu temples tend to be slender. In Hindu temples we can find portrait of Vishnu, Shiva, Durga, Ganesha, and others. The main door of Hindu temple usually faces the west. Here are examples of Hindu temples.



No	Name of Temple	Address
1	Prambanan Temple	Bokoharjo District, Prambanan Sub-district, Sleman Regency, Yogyakarta Province
2	Jabung Temple	Jabung District, Paiton Sub-District, Probolinggo Regency, East Java Province
3	Tikus Temple	Temon District, Trowulan Sub-District, Mojokerto Regency, East Java Province
4	Dieng Temple	Located between Banjarnegara Regency and Wonosobo Regency, Central Java Province
5	Cetho Temple	Ceto Village, Gumeng District, Jenawi Sub-District, Karanganyar Regency, Central Java Province
6	Sukuh Temple	Karanganyar Regency, Central Java Province
7	Surawana Temple	Canggu District, Pare Sub-District, Kediri Regency, East Java Province
8	Gerbang Lawang Temple	Jati Pasar District, Trowulan Sub-District, Mojokerto Regency, East Java Province



Is Balinese Hinduism different from Indian Hinduism?

Theologically speaking, Balinese Hinduism is slightly different from Indian Hinduism. Hinduism in Bali is called Hindu Dharma, which is the blending of the Hindu beliefs of the Shiva, Vaishnava and Brahma with the local beliefs of the Balinese people. However, in general, Hinduism in both regions demonstrated common characteristics as they were inspired by Vedic teachings.



Province **Hindu Population in Indonesia**

Bali		
West Nusa Tenggara		118,1 thousand
Lampung		113,5 thousand
East Java		112,2 thousand
Central Sulawesi		99,6 thousand
South Sulawesi		58,4 thousand
Southeast Sulawesi		45,4 thousand
South Sumatera		39,2 thousand
Jakarta		20,4 thousand
West Java		19,5 thousand

How did Hinduism come to Indonesia?

Hinduism was introduced to Indonesia by Indian traders in the 1st century AD. It then expanded through social interaction and intermarriage. Brahmins (religious class of Hinduism) had role in its propagation. We could mention some great names such as Maharsi Agastya (known in Java as Dwipayana) who spread Hinduism in the early AD era.



Population



3,2 million


Central Java	: 17,4 thousand	Gorontalo	: 3,6 thousand
South Kalimantan	: 16,1 thousand	West Kalimantan	: 2,7 thousand
West Sulawesi	: 16 thousand	Papua	: 2,4 thousand
North Sumatera	: 14, 6 thousand	Riau Islands	: 1,5 thousand
North Sulawesi	: 13,1 thousand	Riau	: 1,1 thousand
Central Kalimantan	: 11,1 thousand	Bangka Bitung Islands	: 1 thousand
Banten	: 8,2 thousand	West Papua	: 859
East Kalimantan	: 7,7 thousand	Jambi	: 582
Maluku	: 5,7 thousand	West Sumatera	: 234
Yogyakarta	: 5,3 thousand	North Maluku	: 200
East Nusa Tenggara	: 5,2 thousand	Aceh	: 136
Bengkulu	: 3,7 thousand		

Sources: Population Data Sensus 2010 by Central Agency of Statistics (BPS)

**Find
out**
the answer

1. Why do Hinduism in Bali has different characteristics compared to those of Hinduism in India?
2. What are the Hindu festivals?
3. Does every festival has its own meaning?
4. Why was Hinduism easily adapted to local culture?
5. Do you have a Hindu temple in your region?





Wei De Dong Tian (Only the Goodness, God Wills). My name is Alung, I am Chinese and I am Confucianist. Currently I'm student of a high school in Jakarta. The greeting I mentioned above shows that we, as Confucianists, are very concerned about the teachings of goodness for all humanity.



CONFUCIANISM



What is the History of Confucianism?

Friends, the history of Confucianism begins at the time of Emperor Yao when this religion was more known as Ru Jiao (儒教), or the religion for educated people. Before Emperor Yao, there appeared several sage kings but their names are not written in the Classics of History, Shujing (书经).



When did Confucianism arrive in Indonesia and how did it develop?

Confucianism or Ru Jiao developed in Indonesia when Chinese people arrived in this archipelago in the first century AD. During the New Order (1966-1998), where the Suharto's administration imposed the assimilation policies, the followers of Confucianism had double identities, in which many of them legally converted to Christianity and Buddhism as written on their Card of Identity (Kartu Tanda Penduduk), but they still practiced Confucianism in their daily lives. This condition had impact on mixed

practice and ritual of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism.

In 2000, the first President in the Post-Suharto era, Abdurrahman Wahid (Gus Dur), issued a Presidential Decree Number 6 of 2000 with the aim to revoke the previous Presidential Decree No. 14 of 1967 concerning the prohibition of celebrating Chinese cultures and religion and the decree of the Minister of Religious Affairs on limitation of religions recognized by the government. The civil rights of Confucians were thus restored.

Who is God in Confucianism?

God in Confucianism is defined as "that which is seen is unseen, that which is heard is unheard, but each being is nothing without Him". (Middle Perfect, CHAPTER XV: verse 2. God is the Ever Existing, the Most Perfect, the Creator of the Universe, and the Most Positive). He is also called Gui Shen, meaning that the Almighty God has power over all Yin and Yang, He is the Most Holy, He is in everywhere.

Who is the Prophet in Confucianism?

Our prophet is Kong Zi, believed to be the messenger of God the Almighty. He was born on the 27th of 8th month of Yinli in 551 BC and died on the 18th of the month 2 of Yinli in 479 BC. Prophet Kong Zi was an important officer in the empire of Lu.

He traveled with his students for 13 years. In the middle of the trip he experienced “a spiritual enlightenment” on December 22th, in which he became Tianzhi Muduo and then preached Tian teachings for all humanity. His teachings were then increasingly disseminated by students to all regions of China.

What are Confucianist Scriptures?

■ *Si Shu*

(Book Four):

1. The Great Learning
2. The Doctrine of the Mean
3. The Analects of Confucius
4. The Mencius

■ *Wu Jing*

(Five Books):

1. Classic of Poetry (Shijing): religious songs, eulogies and songs for ceremonies in the palace.
2. Book of Documents (Shujing): the sacred history of Confucianism.
3. Book of Changes (Yi Jing): description of the events of the universe, so that those who live according to this book will be able to uncover the secret

of Tian’s power with all its aspects.

4. Book of Rites (Lijing): rules and points of decency and worship.
5. Book of History (Chunqiujing): main points of the teachings and words of the Prophet Chunqiu, compiled by his students.

Wu Jing or the five holy books are called the basic canon of the Confucian School of Thought, Si Shu (Book Four) are illustrated as core values and belief systems in Confucianism.

Xiao Jing (Confucian classic treatise on filial piety), in addition to Wu Jing and Si Shu, is one of the most important scriptures in Confucianism. It provides the basic teachings of caring and other virtuous

behaviors. In Xiao Jing, it is written that “Indeed the Xiaojing is the basic teaching of virtue which is the origin of religion. Book of Xiao Jing consists of 18 chapters, all of which explores the filial piety, and explanation of rude and decent behaviors of the common people and its application in various aspects of life.”



What are the main teachings of Confucianism?

Eight Principles of Faith (Ba Cheng Zhen Gui):

1. Belief in God Almighty (Cheng Xin Huang Tian)
2. Belief in Virtue (Cheng Zun Jue De)
3. Belief in the Glorious Words (Cheng Li Ming Ming)
4. Belief in the Existence of Spirit (Cheng Zhi Gui Shen)
5. Belief in Filial Piety (Cheng Yang Xiao Si)
6. Belief in the Teachings of the Prophet Kong Zi (Cheng Shun Mu Duo)
7. Belief in the Book of Si Shu and Wu Jing (Cheng Qin Jing Shu)
8. Belief in the Holy Way (Cheng Xing Da Dao)

Five True Characters (Wu Chang)

1. Ren - Love
2. Yi - Truth / Justice / Obligation
3. Li - Decency
4. Zhi - Wisdom
5. Xin - Trustworthy

The Five True Characters are the revealed words of Tian; if we follow those true characters, we would follow the holy path. And religion is guidance to taking the holy path, which would bring us to the Luminous Virtue, the love of the people, and the peak of goodness.



ZHONG SHU (LOYALTY/ KNOWLEDGEABLE)

Zhong Shu are called by Prophet Kong Zi as 'The One Way That transcends Everything', because this teaching vertically relate humans to God, and horizontally associate humans to other humans and their environment. In this case we must understand which is the principal and which is the fillial, and which is the first and which is the last, as xpressed in the Doctrine of the Mean 3: "Everything has root and branch, and each has a beginning and an end. The person who knows the first and the last, he is close to the Holy Way."



i

FOUR CHALLENGES

1. What is not proper, ***should not be seen***
2. What is not proper, ***should not be heard***
3. What is not proper, ***should not be told***
4. What is not proper, ***should not be done***



Eight Virtues

1. ***Xiao*** - Hommage; Respecting and serving our parents, be responsible for the sustainability of the next generations.
2. ***Ti*** - Humility; brotherhood, demonstrating love and solidarity and harmony to neighbours without arrogance.
3. ***Zhong*** - Loyalty; having the spirit to carrying out duties, and obligations in accordance with our position and functions; we are loyal as humans, servants and citizens; having discipline, patriotism, loyalty to work, and so on.
4. ***Xin*** - Trustworthy; having the ability to uphold the words of Tian in the life of community, nation, and state. Fulfilling what is promised, and doing the best.

5. **Li** - Descency; Observing morality norms, customs, regulations, legislations, and everything that concerns the order of life.
6. **Yi** - Truth; Observing right principles, justice, and not being afraid of difficulties and trials, and be staying in the holy way.
7. **Lian** - Sincerity; purifying heart from jealousy and selfishness as well as indifference to work and mind of other people; staying away from resentment, hatred, revenge, and various moral defects.
8. **Chi** - Self-correction; being aware of self-esteem, dignity, and realizing that all life must be accountable to Tian.

How do the Confucianist people observe funeral ceremony?

As part of funeral ritual, the mourning period lasts for three years and this is also a proof of respect to the deceased. During that period, the left family is prohibited from partying and indulging in unnecessary activities. At the prayer table, they present fruits as media of communication to God.

Who are key figures in Confucianism?

- Jiao Sheng, preachers of Confucianism
- Wen Shi, teacher of Confucianism
- Xue Shi, priest of Confucianism
- Zhang Lao, important figure in Confucianism



Food for Festivals



Zongzi/Ruzong, rice dish made of glutinous rice stuffed with different fillings and wrapped in bamboo leaves, eaten during festival of Duan Yang or festival of Dragon Boat.



Moon Cake, representing thanks to God for His Mercy and Blessing.



Ronde (Tāngyuán), special food traditionally eaten during the Festival of Dongzhi on December, 22th.



What are the Confucianist Festivals?

Friends, you must have known Chinese New Year. In Indonesia, Chinese New Year is called Imlek. It is a religious festival based on calendar of Kong Zi Li which began with his birthday in 551 BC. Up to now (2018), this lunar calendar aged 2569.

The followers of Confucianism celebrate the Chinese New Year as gratitude for what they got in the previous year, and they hope that the following years would be better.

The festival lasts until the fifteenth day when people celebrate Chap Goh Mei by eating together lontong (a dish made of compressed rice cake in the form of a cylinder wrapped in a banana leaf).

How do the Confucianist people worship?

Types of Prayer to God Almighty:

- A.** Su, also known as Jing Di Gong, performed on 8th of the first month of Chinese Year (Spring Season) at 11.00 PM until 1.00 AM.
- B.** Yan, a prayer of Duan Yang or Duan Wu Jie, conducted on 5th day of the 5th month of Chinese Year, to being conscious and cognizant of God, usually held from 11.00 AM to 13.00 PM in the Summer Season.
- C.** Xiang, known as the Jiu prayer, conducted on the 15th Day of Chinese Year, at 11:00 PM to 01:00 AM in the Fall Season.

- D.** Jian, known as the Dong Zi prayer, conducted on December the 22th, in the morning during the Winter Season on Leap Year. It is a ritual of gratitude for the Almighty God.

For each of these prayers, special food are served.

For prayer of Duan, the menu is Zongzi, For Zhong Jiu is moon cake, and Dong Zi is Ronde (Tāngyuán).

Where do the followers of Confucianism worship?

Confucian Temple is named Kong Miao and Lithang. Inside Kong Miao's building is tablet of names (Sienzi) to commemorating Prophet Khong Zi and his disciples. In Lithang building, on the other hand, an altar is provided to place the Kimsin of the Prophet Khong Zi and the bell with Zong Shu writings.

The oldest Kong Miao building in Indonesia is located in Surabaya, East Java, is known as Boen Bio. In Cirebon City, West Java, it is named Khongcu Bio. The number of Confucian temples in Indonesia reaches 250.



What do the Confucianist people in Indonesia think about religious harmony?

The Confucianist people tried to adapt its religious life to local culture. For example, in the celebration of Chinese New Year and Chap Goh Mei, they also consume a number of traditional foods such as opor ayam (a dish consisting of chicken cooked in coconut milk), lempur (glutinous rice filled with seasoned shredded chicken, fish or

Some Regions have Different Name for Calling Confucian Temples

Bio (Sumatera regions)

Am (East Sumatera)

Klenteng (Java regions)

Tai Pakung (Kalimantan)

abon (meat floss) lontong, fried liver, acar (a type of vegetable pickle), and others in their menu. They are served at the closing ceremony. Besides food, the women also wear traditional cloth called Pekalangan light-colored kebaya (a traditional blouse-dress combination). They no longer use traditional red cheongsam. On the part of local people, many Muslims adopted koko clothes, a type of shirt usually worn during religious occasion, and it is inspired by Chinese shirt. During their religious festival, the Confucianist people never discriminate religions of other peoples, and allow communities of any religions to participate. This adaptation and amalgamation with local people are in accordance with Confucius's words that "there is education, there is no differences".

Find out!
the answer

1. What is the divine concept of Confucianism?
2. Who is Kong Zi?
3. How do the Confucianist people worship?
4. How do you call Confucian temple in your region?
5. How do the followers of Confucianism celebrate their festivals?

LOCAL RELIGIONS/ BELIEFS IN INDONESIA





Before the arrival of great religions into the archipelago, almost all ethnic groups had a local belief and religion as part of their cultural system.

They maintain the teachings of the ancestors with all their efforts and sacrifices including living in remote areas and having difficulties to get public services. This local religion exists almost in all major islands in Indonesia. Despite the fact that local religions are numerous, this book only describes six of them.

Let's trace Indonesia's local religions:



SUNDA WIWITAN

You maybe often read books about many tribes in Indonesia in which each of them has unique and interesting customs. Quite often are our traditional celebrations have been used as a spectacle to attract domestic and foreign tourists. However, do you know that the traditional ceremony is an important part of our beliefs such as indicated in my religion, Sunda Wiwitan.





When was Sunda Wiwitan born?

Sunda Wiwitan is believed to have existed long before Hinduism entering the archipelago. The ancient site found in Mount Padang discovered the Sundanese heritage in the form of mandala or kabuyutan which was as a sacred place to perform religious rituals of Sunda Wiwitan. According to the latest research, the site aged more than 2,500 years Before Christ.

The mandala / kabuyutan building was designed in the form of stone terrace (punden berundak), similar to those found in Cibedug, South Banten (Kabuyutan Cibedug) and Ciamis regency (Kabuyutan Manis). The basic structures of those sites were adapted to Buddhist sacred buildings as found in the stone terrace of Borobudur Temple.

What are the beliefs of Sunda Wiwitan?

Many people considered Sunda Wiwitan as a belief which venerates the power of nature and ancestral spirits or what Western historians and anthropologists called animism and dynamism. This understanding is incorrect, because Sunda Wiwitan believes in an omnipotent supreme being who is an original source of all creatures called Sanghyang Tunggal or Batara Tunggal, or also named Nu Ngersakeun. This divine concept is similar to monotheism. The belief system of Sunda Wiwitan was described in Carita Parahyangan (a single manuscript written around the late 16th century) as "Jatisunda."

Where are the followers of Sundanese Wiwitan found?

Adherents of Sunda Kawiwitan could be found in various regions of Pasundan, West Java, both in rural and urban areas. To defend Sunda Kawiwitan, those who live in urban areas have formed modern organizations, in contrast to traditional organization typically lived by rural population. According to its adherents, Sunda Wiwitan is a long-held belief which existed before the arrival of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam.



What are the scriptures of Sunda Wiwitan?

Sunda Wiwitan does not recognize what so-called holy book, but it has various teachings of life and moral guidance, rules and norms. The teachings of the perfect life as preserved in customs and traditions, pantun and oral advices and written in lontar (palm-leaf), have been translated and compiled in books such as Sanghyang Siksakandang Karesian (Kropak* 630), Sewakadarma (Kropak 630) and Amanat Galunggung (Kropak 632). These three ancient manuscripts are not considered scriptures, but only as book of guidance and knowledge.

*Kropak is a "book" made out of dried-palm leaves.



What is Sunda Wiwitan's concept of nature?

There are three types of nature in the Sunda Wiwitan, as mentioned in the pantun (poetic form) concerning the mythology of the Kanekes (people of baduy, in Banten Province):

1

Buana Nyuncung

Pointy Realm or Peak Realm, the abode of the supreme highest being, Sang Hyang Kersa.

2

Buana Panca Tengah

The Middle World, where humans and other creatures live.

3

Buana Larang

It is hell, located at the bottom (lower most realm), realm of demons and lowly spirits.

Between Buana Nyuncung and Buana Panca Tengah are 18 layers of realm decreasing order of sacredness from top to bottom. The uppermost layer is called Bumi Suci Alam Padang or Alam Kahyangan or Mandala Hyang according to kropak 630. The second highest layer of realm is the abode of Nyi Pohaci Sanghyang Asri and Sunan Ambu.

Who are the important figures in Sunda Wiwitan?

Sang Hyang Kersa created seven gods (batara) to Sasaka Pusaka Buana ((The Sacred Place on Earth). One of them was Batara Cikal, considered to be the ancestor of the Kanekes people (contemporary baduy people). Other descendants were the monarchs who ruled other regions of Sunda territory.



What is the value system of Sunda Wiwitan?

Value system of Sunda Wiwitan is based on explicit and implicit norms. The written norms are rules and taboos that govern the way of life of adherents, while the unwritten norms are internal and individual understandings of the faith. Sunda Wiwitan value system is basically derived from two principles: essential human characteristics (Cara Ciri Manusia) and essential national characteristics (Cara Ciri Bangsa).

The first are basic elements of human life which include five fundamentals:

1. Welas asih: love and compassion
2. Undak Usuk: social and family norms
3. Tata Krama: etiquette
4. Language and culture
5. Wiwaha Yudha Naradha: A basic human characteristic of always being wary and rejecting foreign influences which are not compatible with tradition.





The second are national characteristics in which all humans have similar traits but are expressed differently from individual or community to another. These elements are the source of variety among human beings:

1. Rupa, physical appearance;
2. Adat, customs and rules;
3. Bahasa, language;
4. Aksara, Letter;
5. Budaya, culture.



These two principles are not definitively written in the Sunda Wiwitan Book (Sanghyang Siksa Kanda Ng Karesian), but are understood from everyday life experiences, which were memorized and transferred from generation and to generation as human life guidance.



Sunda Wiwitan did not teach many prohibitions or taboos, except two things:

1. Avoid what harm others and what they do not want;
2. Avoid what harms you.

To respect shrine and sacred place (Kabuyutan, also called Sasaka Pusaka Buana and Sasaka Domas) and to abide by a series of rules regarding the tradition of farming and harvesting, Sunda Wiwitan elaborated many restrictions and taboos. The most numerous taboos (called Buyut by Kanekes people) are applied to those living within the most sacred place on earth—the people of Baduy Dalam (Inner Baduy) that inhabit Sasaka Pusaka Buana (Sacred Place on Earth).





What are taboo sin Sunda Wiwitan?

Inner Baduy people are prohibited from using any footwear, and the color of the clothes allowed are only white and black. In addition, their clothes may not have collars and buttons.



How do Sunda Wiwitan followers interact with surrounding community?

The adherents of Sunda Wiwitan usually live in an indigenous community which is separate from the wider community. To protect their traditions and community, they employed certain taboo, one of which prohibits outsiders from entering the area of Inner Baduy. They also deliberately isolated themselves from the modern development, because they believe that living a simple life and staying united with nature is a wise way to have harmony between human and nature.

Surrounding communities fully understand and appreciate the life principles of Baduy People. Neither the government nor religious figures forced them to change their beliefs, which were considered local wisdom.



How do Sunda Wiwitan followers worship?

One of the rituals that I have followed and witnessed was a ceremony to purify mountain called Ngertakeun Bumi Lamba. We sat around in a large place on the mountain. Our religious leaders recited prayers devoted to God (Batara) and deities who guard the mountain, accompanied at the same time by

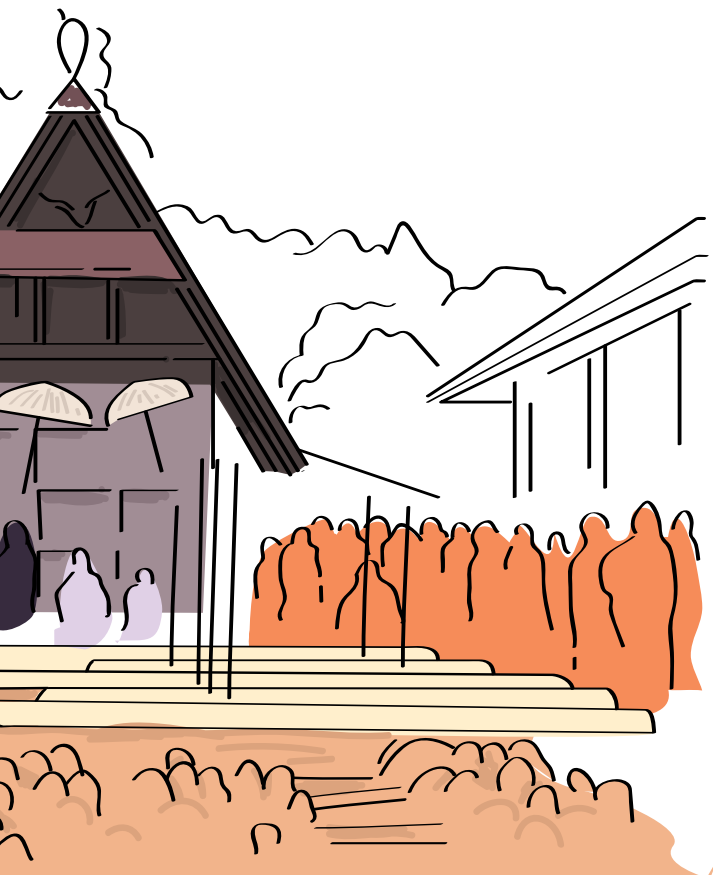
traditional instrumental music and dances by several faithfuls. We burnt incense and made offerings of varied flowers and other materials. After reciting the prayers, the ceremony ended with throwing the offerings into the mountain crater. This tradition we performed as our gratitude to nature.





To celebrate our new agriculture year and our thanksgiving for the abundant rice harvest, we have ritual called Seren Taun in which we recite a number of prayers and make an offering of some rice and vegetables to God. That is our way to maintain harmony between humans and nature which is inseparable from preserving traditions to respect nature. Other similar traditions included Ruwatan* Sumber Air (Ruwatan of Wellspring), Ruwatan Kampung (Ruwatan of Village), Ruwatan Bumi (Ruwatan of Earth), Larungan Laut (Ruwatan of Sea), Ruwatan Mitembeyan (Ruwatan of Starting an activity) and Ruwatan Panen (Ruwatan of Harvest).

* Ruwatan is a ritual to cleanse and purify someone/ community or place from curse or misfortune.





My name is Monang and I am follower of my ancestral religion, Ugamo Malim or Parmalim.

PARMALIM



Where can we find followers of Parmalim?

We live in the Batak Lands which comprise of areas around Lake Toba and Samosir Island, precisely at Huta Tinggi, Laguboti, Toba Samosir Regency, about 7 hours by road trip from Medan City, North Sumatera.



What does Parmalim Mean?

Parmalim comes from the word Par-Malim or Par-Ugamo Malim, which means adherents of Malim. It existed long before Indonesian independence and managed to spread in various regions of North Sumatra. Samosir and Toba Samosir (Tobasa) are not only the lands of the majority of Parmalim followers, but also its center of activity and Holy Land. Most researchers of social and cultural sciences called this Batak ethnic belief as Parmalim Hutatinggi.

How many are the followers of Parmalim?

The current number of Parmalim followers is estimated at around 22,000 people (consisting of 7,500 families).

What is the Parmalim concept of God?

Malim means holy and its presence is to protect human beings and to worship Oppu Mulajadi Nabolon or Debata (God, the Creator of the Universe).

Who is the messenger in Parmalim?

Sisingamangaraja was king of the Batak people and he was the messenger sent by Mulajadi Nabolon.

What are sects in Parmalim?

There are three sects in Parmalim, including Raja Ungkap Naipospos sect in Hutatinggi Sub-District, Parmalim Baringin sect in Pangururan City, and Raja Omat Manurung sect in Sigaol, Porsea Sub-District.





Where do they worship?

The followers of Parmalim worship in a place called Bale Paksaktian or Bale Parpitaan or Bale Partogoan, in Hutatinggi Village, in every Saturday, beginning at around 11.00 AM and finishing at 12. AM. The followers arrive at place by cars, motorbikes, or private cars.



Distribution of Parmalim followers

Parmalim followers could be found in North Sumatra Province, such as in Pohan Meranti Tobasa District, Tanah Datar Asahan, Jangga Tobasa, Onanganjang-Humbahas, Panamparan Tobasa in Tanah Karo District, Samosir, Humbang Hasundutan, North Tapanuli, Simalungun, Asahan, Mandailing Natal, Tebing Tinggi, and Medan City. Some of them also live in Java Island, especially in Tangerang City, Bekasi City and Jakarta Province.



How do they call their religious leader?

Parmalim members are often referred to as “Ruat” while the Parmalim leader is called Ulu Punguan (priest).



What are the structures of Parmalim worship house?

The Bale Parsaktian complex in Hutattinggi has four typical Batak buildings which include Bale Partonggoan (prayer hall), Bale Parpitaan (sacred hall), Bale Pangaminan (meeting hall), and Bale Parhobasan (kitchen room). Above the building of Bale Parsaktian are effigies of three chickens, each of which has red, black, and white colors symbolizing, according to Monang, “Partondion” (Parmalim pillars of faith).

The black chicken (manuk jarum bos) refers to Batara Guru Batara, white chicken to Debata Sori, and red chicken to Bala Bulan. Those colors also have another meaning: black symbolizes truth, white is purity, and red is knowledge (force or power).

What dowe doduring worship?

With closed eyes and both hands put before chest, all participants of ritual recite prayers. In front of the room is a small table to place burnt incense as a complement to worship. The smell of plant-made incense is a means to communicate with God.

There are two major rituals conducted by Parmalim faifhtuls. First is Parningotan Hatutubuni Tuhan or Si Pahasada, a ritual to celebrate Batak New Year which occurs at the beginning of March.



Another ritual is Pameleon Bolon or Sipaha Lima, which takes place between June and July where participants demonstrate tortor dance, accompanied by Batak instrumental music Gondang Sabangunan.

When the ceremony takes place, the married men wears a turban on their head and a Batak scarf or ulos, while women wear sarong and tidy up their hair into a tight bun.



What are religious festivals in Parmalim?

The main Parmalim festival is called Pahasada Si (First month) and Si Pahalima (fifth month) which are celebrated at the Parmalim complex in Hutatinggi. During the festival of Si Pahasada, the adherents of Ogamo Malim come from various regions, divided into 50 communities and 1500 families. They are not only present, but also participating in series of ceremonies conducted in Bale Pasogit which they believe to be a Holy Land. While Si Pahasada ceremony is held in the Bale Pasogit room, the Si Pahalima

ceremony, which involve mass participant and to be more close to nature, is conducted outdoor. According to Raja Marnangkok Naipospos, the current leader of Ugamo Malim, the Si Pahasada ceremony is the opening ritual of New Year and a new day for Parmalim Hutatinggi followers. "The main moral message of the Si Pahasada festival is to welcome the birth and arrival of God Simarimbulu Bosi and his people."




Who are the main figures of Parmalim?

Guru Somalaing Pardede is a charismatic figure, prominent spiritual and political strategist, and he effectively organized Hamalimon. That is why Sisingamangaraja XII, king and central figure of Parmalim, appointed him as his advisor.



Raja Mulia Naipospos

Ugamo Malim (Parmalim) is ancestral religion adopted by royal dynasty of Sisingamangaraja in Batak Lands, North Sumatra. After Sisingamangaraja XII, the last king, died, his loyal disciple, Raja Mulia Naipospos, continued the leadership (as ihutani or spiritual leader) and spread Ugamo Malim's teachings in Hutatinggi.



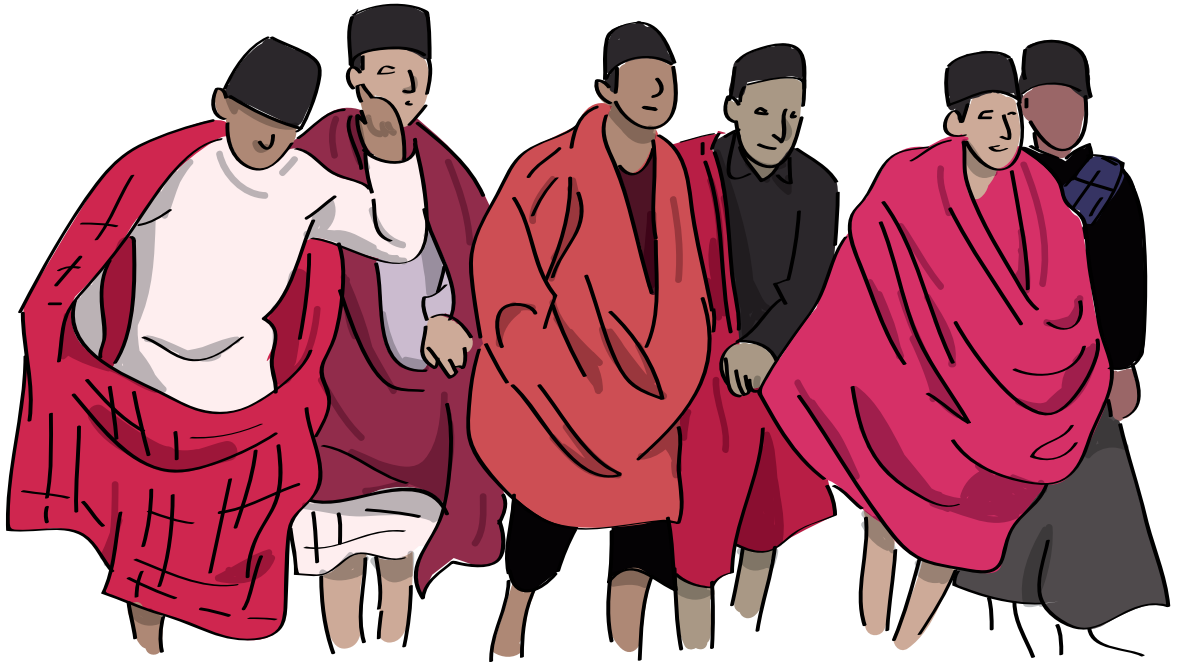
My name is Eja. I am 17 years old and I live in Sinderen Rappang Regency of South Sulawesi Province. I am follower of Tolotang, a local religion believed to have been passed down on Sulawesi Island. In Indonesia, the followers of Tolotang are estimated at around 5,000 people, and most of them live in Sulawesi Island.

TOLOTANG



Who are the founders of Tolotang?

There are two figures of Tolotang each of whom claimed to receive revelation from God and spread it. The first is Sawarigading and the second is La Panaungi, who is claimed to have been taken up to heaven and, one day, he will come down to earth.



How do Tolotang followers call their leaders?

We call our elders with uwatta. They had very important role, especially in inheritance distribution, mediation of disputes, and social problem solving. They were also believed to be descendants of Sawarigading or God (Dewata Sewae).

What are holy Scriptures in Tolotang?

We believe in the holy Book Lontara or usually called Sure Galigo. It contains stories of the creation of the universe and the here after as well as heavenly creatures such as Ulona Batara Guru, Taggilina Sinapatie, Rittebanna Walanrangge, and Appongena Towanie. Other religious books in Tolotang are Paseng and Pemmali which provide teachings about social values and norms.

What is the concept of God in Tolotang?

We believe in dan pray to Dewa Sewae as the Almighty God who created the universe.

What are the pillars of Tolotang?

The followers of the Tolotang believe in 5 pillars:

1. Belief in the Only One God (Dewata Sewae)
2. Belief in the holy books (Lotaran, Pemmali, and Pesae)
3. Belief in the messengers (Sawagending and La Panaungi)
4. Belief in the Day of Judgment (Asolingeng Lino)
5. Belief in the Hereafter (Lipu Bonga /Heaven)

Our religion does not recognize hell. Our fate is completely dependent on uwatta. We are required to believe in Molalaleng, an obligation that must be carried out.





What are religious ritual in Tolotang?

As in other religions, Tolotang also has rituals to worship God. For example, in a ritual called Mappianre Inanre, we laid offerings consisting of rice, side dishes and betel leaves to the house of uwa and uwatta, in order that God would bless our harvest.

Another ritual is Sipulung, which is a pilgrimage to our ancestral grave, I Pabere, whose purpose is not to worship the deceased but as a way to honor him as the first leader who managed to build our tribe.



What are social groups in Tolotang?

Tolotang community is divided into two groups, the Benteng Group and the To Wani To Lotang Group. The two groups have different traditions in several ceremonies, such as in funeral procession and wedding

party. For the Benteng Group the marriage procession and funeral are similar to those of Islam. For example, after bathing the dead body, they enshroud it in white cotton or linen cloth. However, in the To Wani To Lotang group, they enshroud the dead body in betel leaves. For

the wedding procession, the To Wani To Lotang group hold ceremony before Uwatta, a ritual leader who is a direct descendant of To Wani To Lotang founder.



What are traditional ceremonies performed by Tolotang followers?

- a.** Perrinyameng
This annual local customary activity is practiced on January by making pilgrimage to the tomb of Perrinyameng, ancestor of Tolotang.
- b.** Sprinkling perfume by uwa, and Massempe ritual.

When participating in such ceremonies, we dress in white shirt, wear sarong; men wear black cap (kopyah), while women wear kebaya (traditional blouse dress). During the ritual, we silently sit cross-legged on traditional mats, and concentrate our thought onto the creator (Dewata Sewae). Afterwards, Uwa, our spiritual leader, sprinkle perfumed oil on our very sacred grave stone.



My name is Viktor.
I am a native
resident of Sumba
Island, a very
beautiful place
where I live on.

MARAPU

In Sumba Island, we can find an amazing savanna and horse cattle. From this island an ancestral religion, Marapu, is still practised.



What is meant by Marapu?

Marapu is a native religion in Sumba Island, part of East Nusa Tenggara province. It is said that the religion has existed since hundreds of years ago. Its adherents worship the ancestors who have left the world. Marapu followers believe that after death, they would go to a very beautiful place called Prai Marapu, similar to the concept of heaven in Islam and Christianity.

What are the main teachings of Marapu?

This religion bases its teachings on the belief of ancestral spirits, and the Marapu means 'the one who is honored or glorified'. The spirit is understood as the most important component of the religion. The spirit of the deceased lives in Prai Marapu (the land of spirits /heaven) and be honored. But this status could only be achieved if during his life the deceased behaved according to nuku hara (law and order) set by the ancestors.

How many are types of spirit according to Marapu?

1

Marapu

Hawangu is a spirit who controls human body and makes him able to think, feel, and act.

2

Ndiawa or ndewa (roh suci dewa)

Ndiawa or ndewa is heavenly spirit or hawangu who has left the body and become a spiritual being.

There are two types of Marapu (the heavenly beings who have personality like humans), namely:

1

Marapu

Marapu is the spirit of deified ancestors and is considered as the ancestors of a family.

2

Marapu Ratu

Marapu Ratu is a spirit that descends from heaven and is believed to be the ancestor of Marapu.

This religion believes that all beings, not only humans but also animal, plants and other objects, have an evil spirit, called Patau Tana. He tries to misled humankind. In order to resist Patau Tuna's temptation, man should follow all teachings and rules of Marapu.



What is the Concept of God in Marapu?

Although each family has a Marapu to be worshiped, the main purpose of ritual is intended to Mawulu Tau Majil Tau (the creator of universe).

God the Almighty does not interfere in worldly affairs.



Marapu is a bridge between man and God. That is why Marapu was told about nuku hara (law and order).

This Almighty God is usually called by a number of figurative names to keep him holy and not to be called too often.

How do the Marapu faithfuls worship?

The Marapu might be symbolized in gold/ silver ornament or in the form of statue and jar called Tanggu Marapu.

There are various colors of jar:

■ Red, symbol of earth

■ Green, symbol of sky



Tunggu Marapu (sacred object for ritual) is divided into two groups:

1. Tunggu Marapu (placed on attic) is a very sacred ceremonial object.
2. Tunggu Marapu (placed in ancestral building) is heirloom owned by Kabihu.





Where can the Marapu' followers do worship?

There is a special building to place the Marapu Tanggu called Uma Bokulu. In the same building, some rooms are created to hold special worship:

1. **Uma Karambua** a room to ask for wealth;
2. **Uma Andungu** a room to ask for the victory of war;
3. **Uma Payenu** a room for newly married couples.

Worship can be conducted in katuada (monument) which is placed at several points such as in front of the house and uma bokulu, at the village gate, in the grasslands, and in several other places.

We can also pray in Pahuamba, which is a pile of stones placed under a tree.

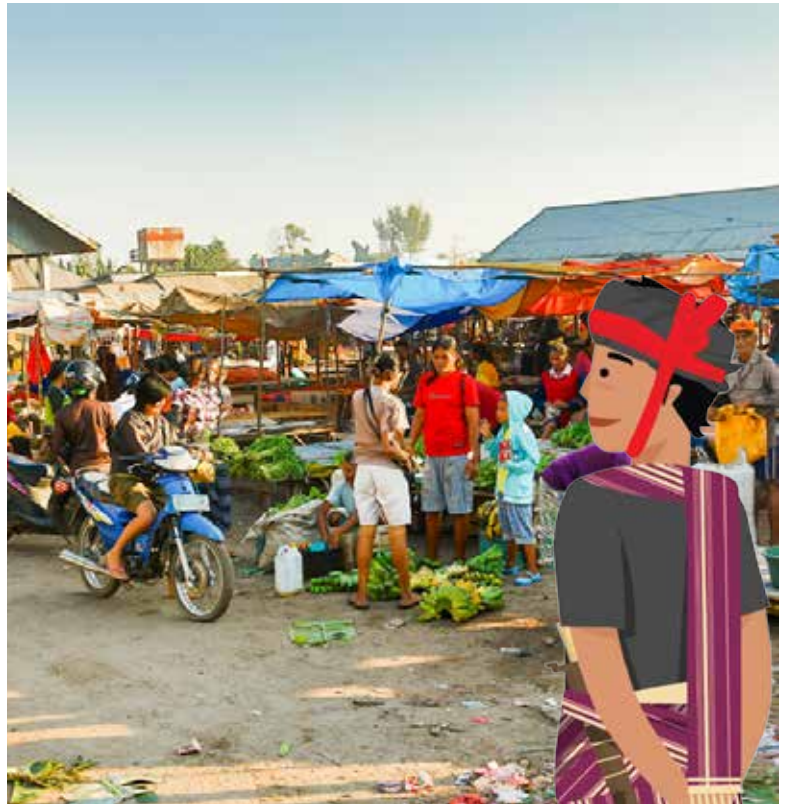
How do we call religious leader?

Religious ritual of Marapu is usually led by a ratu (priest), and the time of its implementation is calculated according to traditional calendar called Tanda Walungu.



How do Marapu adherents maintain religious harmony with others?

During the New Order, Marapu followers were usually identified as part of Hinduism due to its similar concept of God and mysticism. However, it must be admitted that their daily practices were different.



Marapu followers basically live in harmony with followers of other religions in East Nusa Tenggara. For example, the majority of Christians on these islands tend to combine their faiths with Marapu, including the amulets of religious rituals, which now have become tourist attraction.



KAHARINGAN

Kaharingan means growth or life, a religion which is professed by many Dayaks in Kalimantan island and their numbers are estimated at around 60,000.

My name is Teguh.
I am 15 years old.
I come from the Dayak Maratus tribe in South Kalimantan.
I am a follower of Kaharingan.



When was Kaharingan religions born?

As a religion, Kaharingan has existed for thousands of years in Kalimantan, even before the arrival of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity. However, Kaharingan was first introduced by Tjilik Riwut in 1944, when he was employed as Resident of Sampit. In 1945, the Japanese government proposed the recognition of Kaharingan as religion. During the New Order, Kaharingan followers were under pressure to affiliate with Hinduism,



one of five religions formally acknowledged by the government. That is why we call this Dayak religion as Hindu Kaharingan. But this association was not wholly accepted, as both religions essentially have different teachings and rituals.

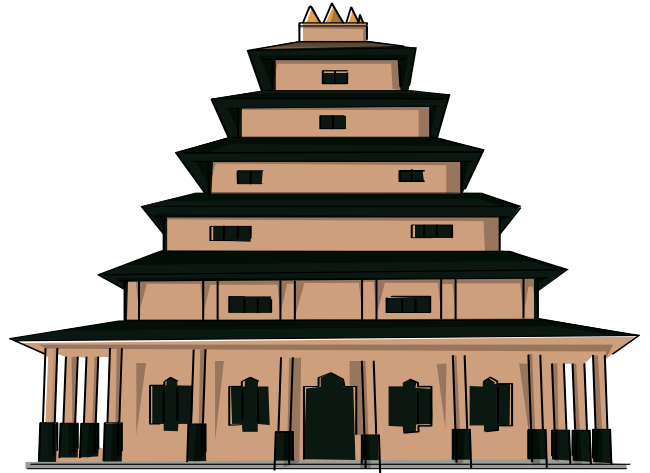
What is the concept of God in Kaharingan?

Kaharingan adherents believe in many gods around them, such as gods who control land, rivers, trees, rocks, and so on. However, we believe that among these gods there is One Supreme God often referred to as Ranying Hatala Langit and He is the supreme ruler and the creator of the universe.

What is the holy Scriptures of Kaharingan?

Panaturan is the holy Scripture of Kaharingan, written in Latin letters and Sangiang language. There are also other holy texts, such as Talatah Basarah which is a collection of prayers, and Tawur which contains ritual procedures for asking God's help.





What is the main teachings of Kaharingan?

We believe in natural harmony and law of causality. Kaharingan followers would not clear the forest for housing and farming without asking permission from the spirits dwelling in it, which is a local wisdom to maintain environmental equilibrium.

Who are the religious leaders of Kaharingan?

We call our religious leaders with several titles such as pisur, tukang mahanteran, tukang balian, jaya, and badewa.



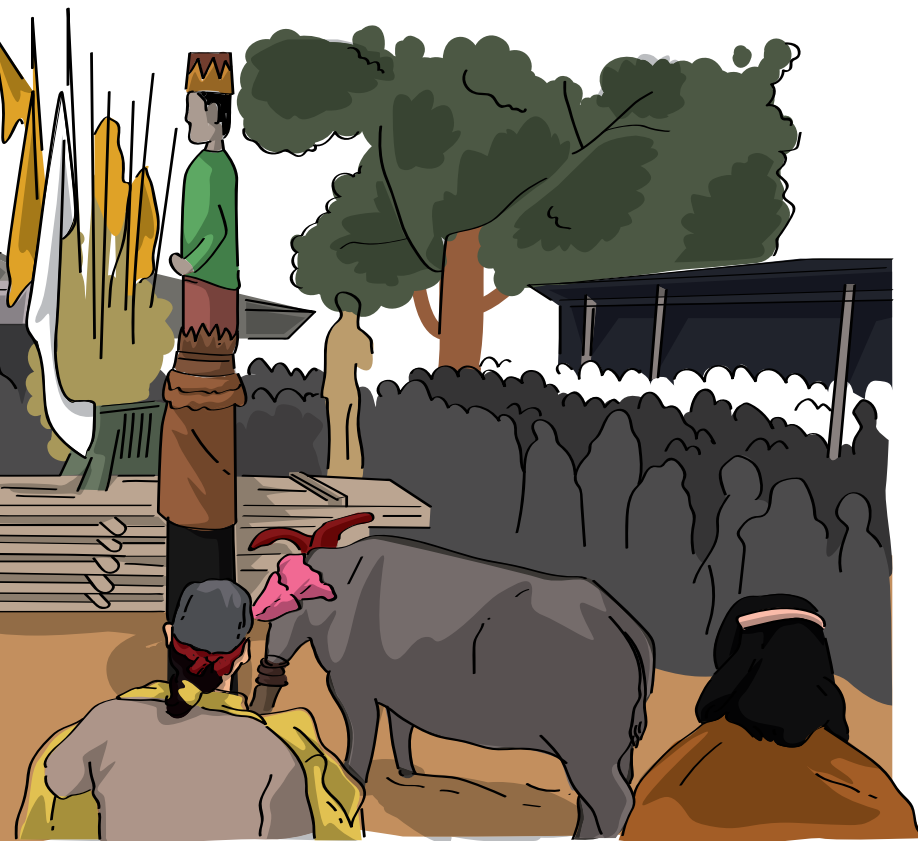
Where do Kaharingan followers worship?

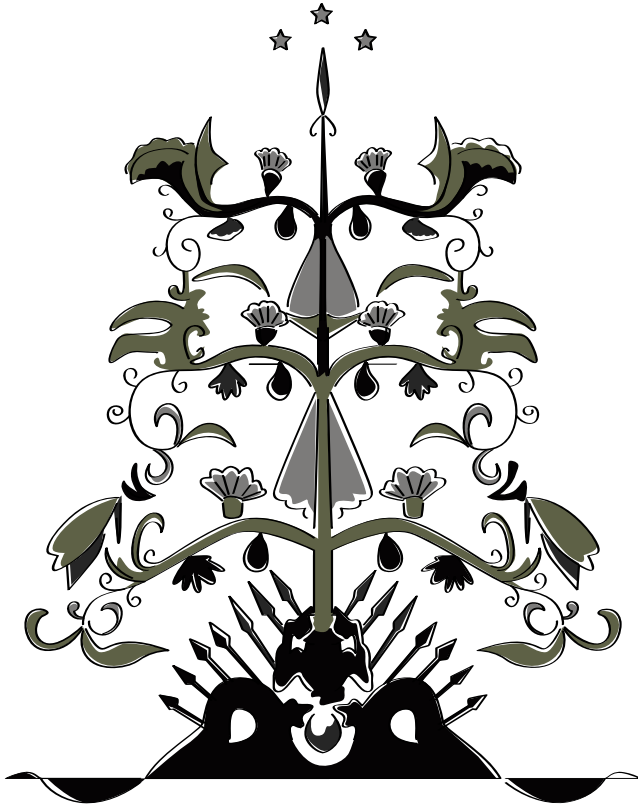
The Basarah or Panaturan Hall is our place of worship. The shape of the building resembles a pagoda but looks simpler without typical ornaments of Hinduism. One of the grandest Balai Basarah is located in Kuala Kuayan Village, Mentaya Hulu. At the same complex, we might find other religious buildings which demonstrate that we managed to establish inter-religious harmony.



How do Kaharingan followers carry out their religious rituals?

We have regular ritual called Baserah, which is conducted every Thursday or Friday nights. As for the festival, we have important ritual called Tiwah or second funeral rite whose goal is to make the soul of the deceased enter easily paradise (Lewu Tatau). This ceremony applies strict procedures to prevent the harm of malevolent spirits. We usually carry out this kind of ceremony every five years, or based on family consensus.





What are the Symbols of Kaharingan?

Kaharingan is often symbolized by a haring stem which means the Tree of Life. It represents harmonious relations among humans, humans and nature, and humans and God. As for Kataladah (jar or pot) where the roots of the Tree were laid, it symbolizes two different worlds unified by the need of survival.

The fruits of the Tree stand for a large group of humans.

An area to implant haring is called Pulau Batu Nindan Tarung or the island where humans firstly lived before being sent down to earth. At the top of the Tree are hornbill and the sun representing Ranying Hatalla Langit, the source of all life.





Where do the majority of Kaharingan followers live?

Kaharingan is adopted by Dayak people who inhabit several regions including the Dayak Maratus in South Kalimantan, the DayakTunjung Benuain East Kalimantan, and the Dayak Ngaju in Central Kalimantan. Some

followers might also be found in the Dayak Uud Danum who reside in Embalau and Serawai, West Kalimantan.



My name is Haryo. I am 15 years old, and now a student of high school, at 10th Class. I wholly believe in the Kejawen teachings that my parents taught me since childhood. Here is a quick look of it ...

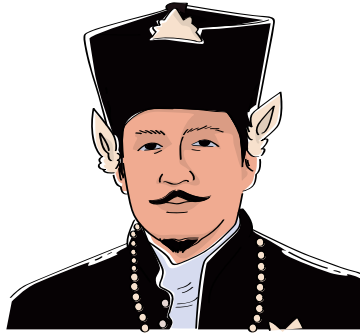
KEJAWEN



What is Kejawen?

Kejawen has been existing in Java for a long time. The majority of Kejawen followers nominally adopted great religions formally recognized by the government but they still practice ancestral traditions and rituals. They would say that Kejawen is not a religion, although it has several rituals and practices which are normally found in a religion.

Kejawen is associated with Javanese customs and beliefs.



Who is the most important figure of Kejawen?

Sultan Agung of Mataram Kingdom was considered as a philosopher who built principles of Islamic Kejawen.

What is the concept of God in Kejawen?

The followers of Kejawen prefer to call God "Pangeran/Lord" or Gusti or Gusti Kang Murbeng Dumadi (God as the creator of the universe who give life to humans and never punish them. It is our duty to worship God and do goodness to fellow humans and the environment. Kejawen believes in the Only Supreme God (Sang Hyang Tunggal/ Sang Hyang Wenang).

What are the main teachings of Kejawen?

Our life in this world should be based on the principle of tepa salira, a kind of golden law which means "do not do what harms others, as we do not want others harm us.

Another Javanese golden law said that "do not impose our will on others" (ojo seneng mekso).

The followers of Kejawen develop spiritual practices and inner dimension of religion which enable some of them to have union with God (in Javanese called manunggaling karsa kawulo lan karsa Gusti-spiritual union of God and servant)

Kejawen required its followers to be beneficial to themselves, their families, all humankind and the universe.



What are festivals in Kejawen?

1

Suran (New Year 1 Sura)

To celebrate Javanese New Year which is based on lunar calendar.

2

Sepasaran

To celebrate and to thank to God for the birth of a baby.

3

Mantenan

Kebatinan has sophisticated procedures of wedding ceremony, all of which are treated as sacred.

4

Mangkat

Rituals dedicated to the deceased conducted on 7th day, 40th day and 100th after the death day.

5

Megeng Pasa

Sharing food with the relatives on 29th or 30th days of Ruwah Month before the arrival of Fasting Month (Ramadhan Month of Islamic Calender).

6

Megeng Syawal

Sharing food with the relatives on 29th or 30th days of the Fasting Month before the Eid Al-Fitr celebration.

7

Riadi Kupat

Celebration of the end of Fasting month conducted on the 3rd and 4th days of Shawwal month.





What are types of fasting of Kejawen?

1

Pasa Weton

Fasting conducted to commemorate the birthday.

2

Pasa Apit Ayu

Fasting carried out during the first 10 days of the 12th month of the Javanese calendar.

3

Pasa Wulan

Fasting practiced on the 13th, 14th and 15th days of each month of the Javanese calendar.

4

Pasa Mutih

Abstention from eating anything that is salted and sweetened, only eating/drinking pure water & rice.

5

Pasa Patigeni

Abstention from eating and drinking and isolating his/herself in a dark room without light.

6

Pasa Ngebleng

Fasting without breaking, sleeping, and keep staying in a room for certain period.

7

Pasa Ngalong

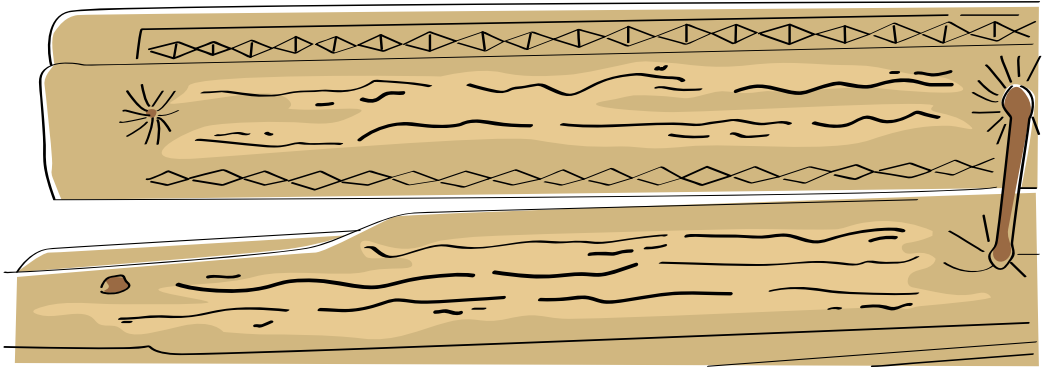
Meditation by hanging from a tree.

8

Pasa Ngrowot

Abstention from any food except fruit or vegetables.





What are the sacred texts of Kejawen?

Kejawen teachings are transmitted through oral tradition and daily practices from generation to generation. Therefore it does not have such a holy book as it is known in great religions. Its followers however have some old sacred texts as their reference

1

Kakawin (Kawi literature)

Long narrative poems composed in old Javanese written in verse form with rhythms and metres derived from Sanskrit literature. It is a rich source of advices for daily lives.

2

Macapat (Carakan literature)

Javanese poetry written in Javanese script and pegon letters.

3

Babad (history)

History of the archipelago (Nusantara).

4

Suluk (Spiritual Path)

Litterally means spiritual paths to internalize Javanese way of life (*Hanjawani*)

5

Kidung (prayers)

A form of old Javanese poetry using Javanese meters featuring a collection of prayers and mantras read in a distinctive tone.

6

Primbon

Collection of horoscope to predict future events.





Mamayu Hayuning Bawana is one of the philosophy of Kejawen which means “creating the harmonious relations with the world and preserving the environment.”

What are the past and present developments of Kejawen?

Kejawen is a native Javanese belief that was adopted in almost regions of Java island, even developed in Suriname by Javanese slaves. Kejawen teachings managed to survive by adapting itself to the influences of great religions. With the emphasis on cultivation of inner peace, the followers of Kejawen have been able to demonstrate tolerance toward social and religious differences.

CONCLUSION

Friends, I have described six major religions and six local religions in Indonesia. Every one of them taught its followers to spread goodness.



Every scripture contain the teachings of love, which must be used as a guide of living in society.



All prophets and religious leaders are wise figures who taught and modeled love for others in a peaceful way.



In addition to differences, there are certainly many similarities among religions. Differences should not be homogenized, and they are not an excuse to disunity.



In addition to religion, culture could enrich diversity and be a unifying factor of religious diversity.



Religious diversity in Indonesia is the most beautiful gift from God that we must be grateful for and celebrate.



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