



Study of Shamanic Witchcraft (Santet) Culture in the Indonesian Archipelago

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ABSTRACT

Various ethnic groups in Sumatra also possess shamanic traditions that involve traditional rites and the involvement of shamans or individuals with specialized skills in countering black magic. Each of these ethnic groups possesses distinct practices and beliefs. The Batak tribe has diverse ethnic subgroups, including Toba Batak, Karo, Mandailing, and others. Within Batak culture, there exist shamanistic rituals, and individuals who perform these rituals are referred to as "datu" or "Batak shamans." The shaman has a crucial function in upholding social and spiritual equilibrium within society. They possess the ability to retaliate against dark sorcery or provide healing for ailments through their expertise and spiritual wisdom. The Minangkabau tribe upholds robust traditional customs, which encompass shamanic rituals associated with the veneration of ancestors and nature deities. Within Minangkabau society, there exist individuals known as "bundo kanduang" who possess specialized expertise in countering the effects of black magic and healing ailments by traditional means. The Bukit Barisan tribe is an indigenous population dispersed over the Bukit Barisan region, encompassing a significant portion of Sumatra Island. Their religious system encompasses shamanic ideologies and rituals that revolve around the veneration of nature spirits and ancestral figures. Shamans, or spiritual leaders, play a crucial role in upholding social and spiritual equilibrium within their communities. It is crucial to bear in mind that these shamanic rituals exhibit variations among different ethnic groups and subgroups in Sumatra. Moreover, the impact of religions like Islam and Christianity has also had an influence on certain shamanic activities within these communities. Shamanic practices encompass a range of functions, including customary rituals and endeavors to address societal and metaphysical discord. Gaining insight into this cultural legacy and shamanistic customs enables us to value the cultural variety in Indonesia and the ongoing evolution and adjustment of various cultures in response to changing circumstances.

1. Introduction

The culture of shamanic witchcraft is one of the interesting and controversial aspects of the cultural realm in the archipelago, a region rich in ethnic diversity, language, and belief traditions. The traditional practice of black magic has been an important part of people's lives in various regions of Indonesia, but it is also often accompanied by controversy and negative impacts. In this context, the study of the archipelago's shamanic witchcraft culture is important to understand its complexity. The culture of witchcraft and witchcraft involves a series of supernatural belief practices aimed at harming certain

individuals or groups. This practice is often related to goals such as revenge, a desire for gain, or the destruction of an enemy. Mystical powers and certain rituals are an integral part of the implementation of this black magic practice. Although this practice plays an important role in some societies in the archipelago, in reality, the culture of shamanic black magic also gives rise to various controversies and social tensions.¹⁻³

At first glance, the practice of black magic may appear to be an inseparable part of the traditions and cultural heritage of the archipelago. However, it should be noted that this practice often involves violations of

individual rights, social conflicts, and even illegal acts. Therefore, an in-depth investigation of this shamanistic culture of witchcraft will reveal the role of this practice in people's lives, its impact on individuals and society, as well as debates about its sustainability in an increasingly modern cultural context. This study attempts to understand more deeply the culture of shamanic witchcraft in the archipelago, including its origins, associated ritual practices, social and cultural impacts, and efforts to resolve the controversies and tensions involving this practice. In this way, we can understand the diversity and complexity of culture in the archipelago, as well as explore issues involving the practice of black magic in contemporary times.⁴⁻⁶

Witchcraft shamanism in Java

In Java, the practice of black magic is often associated with belief in "magical powers" or "black magic." Their origins are often rooted in local mythology, such as stories about supernatural beings, evil spirits, or other supernatural forces that are believed to have an influence on everyday life. This reflects how Javanese culture has a strong connection to the supernatural and spiritual world. The practice of black magic in Java involves various rituals and spells that are believed to have the power to achieve certain goals, be it to harm someone or provide protection. In Javanese culture, words and mantras have an important role in connecting humans with the supernatural. Some Javanese black magic practices may involve reciting certain spells or spells (magic) that are believed to have supernatural effects. Practices like this are often seen as secret knowledge that is only mastered by shamans or certain people who have special knowledge in this field. These shamans or practitioners of black magic often have a high social status in Javanese society and are considered to be those who can provide assistance or solve problems involving supernatural powers. Additionally, it is important to remember that black magic practices in Java are also very diverse. Some practices may focus more on traditional medicine and the use of black magic for positive purposes, while others may be more detrimental. Additionally, religious influences, such as Islam and Hinduism,

have also influenced the practice of black magic in Java, resulting in variations in spiritual approaches and beliefs. The shamanistic culture of black magic in Java reflects how local culture and spiritual beliefs have interacted with history and the social environment.⁷⁻¹⁰

Witchcraft shamanism in Bali

In Bali, there is a martial arts and spiritual tradition known as "teluh" or "kebatinan." These traditions cover various aspects of life and spiritual beliefs in Balinese culture and, in some cases, also involve certain shamanic practices. spirituality in Bali is not only a religious practice but also a philosophy of life that includes moral and ethical principles. This includes an understanding of harmony, balance, and justice in everyday life. Although the majority of Balinese adhere to Hinduism, spirituality is often considered a more ancient form of traditional religion. These practices may include the worship of particular deities or spiritual entities, such as ancestral spirits. One aspect of mysticism is the implementation of salvation rituals. It involves ceremonies to invoke protection and good luck, especially in important situations such as weddings, births, or funerals. Some mystical practices in Bali involve supernatural aspects, such as traditional medicine, the use of mantras, or asking for help from shamans or spiritual practitioners in resolving personal or family problems. It is important to remember that spirituality practices can vary significantly from one individual or family to family. The interpretation and implementation of these practices can be influenced by factors such as family traditions, environment, and spiritual upbringing. As is the case with shamanic practices in other places, there are several mystical practices in Bali that can be used for less than ethical purposes, including shamanic practices to harm certain individuals or groups. This creates controversy and tension in society. It is important to remember that spirituality in Bali is an important part of the culture and spiritual life on this island. This reflects the complexity of the relationship between religion, philosophy of life, and belief practices in Balinese society. Although there are

various views on spirituality, in some cases, these practices can raise ethical and legal questions.¹¹⁻¹³

Witchcraft shamanism in Kalimantan

The Dayak people of Kalimantan have unique shamanic beliefs and practices that reflect their culture and spiritual life. The Dayak tribe is an ethnic group spread across the island of Kalimantan, and they have distinctive traditions and belief practices related to nature and supernatural powers. In Dayak tribal culture, shamans or traditional leaders have an important role in society. They are considered intermediaries between the human world and the supernatural world. This shaman has special knowledge and abilities to communicate with ancestral spirits, gods, and other supernatural entities. In some cases, Dayak shamans may use black magic or shamanic practices involving supernatural powers to overcome social and cultural problems in their communities. These practices may include the use of spells, incantations, or mystical symbols. The Dayak tribe often holds various ceremonies and rituals as part of their shamanic practices. This could involve worship of ancestral spirits, requests for good luck in hunting, or ceremonies to celebrate important events such as harvests or weddings. Some Dayak shamanic practices are also related to traditional medicine. Shamans can use black magic or supernatural knowledge to treat illnesses or other health problems in their society. This shamanic practice is also an important part of maintaining and inheriting Dayak tribal culture. These rituals follow old traditions passed down from generation to generation. It is important to remember that the Dayak are a diverse ethnic group, and shamanic practices may vary between different Dayak groups. Apart from that, religions such as Christianity and Islam also influenced several shamanic practices among the Dayak tribe. Cultural studies and anthropology play an important role in understanding Dayak shamanic practices and their impact on their society. A deeper understanding of Dayak culture and beliefs helps us appreciate the cultural diversity of Kalimantan and explore the relationship between humans and the universe from the perspective of Dayak traditions.^{14,15}

Witchcraft shamanism in Sumatra

Shamanic traditions related to traditional ceremonies and the role of shamans or clever people with special knowledge in responding to black magic are also found in various ethnic groups in Sumatra. Each of these ethnic groups has their own unique practices and beliefs. The Batak tribe has various ethnic sub-groups, such as Batak Toba, Batak Karo, Batak Mandailing, and others. In Batak culture, there are shamanic practices, and shamans are called "datu" or "batak shamans." This shaman has an important role in maintaining social and spiritual harmony in society. They can be used to avenge black magic or treat illnesses using their knowledge and spiritual knowledge. The Minangkabau tribe has strong traditional traditions, and in their culture, there are shamanic practices related to belief in ancestors and nature spirits. In Minangkabau society, there are figures such as "bundo kanduang" who have special knowledge in responding to black magic or curing diseases using traditional methods. The Bukit Barisan tribe is an ethnic group spread across the Bukit Barisan region, which covers most of Sumatra. They have shamanic beliefs and practices associated with belief in nature, spirits, and ancestors. Shamans or spiritual figures can have an important role in maintaining social and spiritual balance in their communities. It is important to remember that these shamanic practices vary between ethnic groups and subgroups in Sumatra. Additionally, the influence of religions such as Islam and Christianity has also influenced some shamanic practices among these groups. Shamanic practices can have a variety of roles, from traditional ceremonies to efforts to resolve social and spiritual conflicts. Cultural studies and anthropology play an important role in understanding these shamanic practices and their impact on ethnic communities in Sumatra. Understanding this cultural heritage and shamanic practices helps us appreciate the cultural diversity in Indonesia and how these cultures continue to develop and adapt to changing times.¹⁶⁻¹⁸

Witchcraft shamanism in Sunda

In Sundanese, there is a shamanic practice known as "santetan" which covers various aspects, including healing, protecting, or even harming certain individuals using spiritual knowledge. This practice reflects the cultural diversity within Sundanese society in West Java. Witchcraft is a diverse practice, and its goals can vary greatly. Some witchcraft practices are used for healing and protection, often involving shamans or psychics who have special knowledge of spiritual science. However, there are also witchcraft practices that are used to harm or harm certain individuals, and these are often very controversial. The practice of black magic often involves various rituals, spells, and mystical symbols that are believed to have supernatural powers. In an effort to heal or protect, spells and rituals may be used to expel negative energy or restore spiritual balance. The practice of black magic, which is used to harm other people, often creates conflict and controversy in society. People accused of being victims of black magic often experience strong psychological pressure and social stigmatization. Shamans or psychics have an important role in the practice of black magic in Sunda. They are thought to have special abilities in using spiritual knowledge and communicating with supernatural entities. Several governments and community groups have made efforts to reduce witchcraft practices that harm individuals or groups. This could involve educational campaigns, law enforcement, and the promotion of a more positive culture. The practice of black magic in Sunda reflects the diverse views and beliefs of that society. While some practices focus on healing and protection, others can have negative impacts on individuals and communities. A deeper understanding of the practice of black magic in Sundanese helps us explore the complexities of culture and spiritual beliefs in that society.^{19,20}

2. Conclusion

The shamanic witchcraft culture in the archipelago reflects cultural diversity, local mythology, and unique spiritual beliefs. Each region and ethnic group has different practices and traditions in dealing with the

supernatural world. The origins of witchcraft practices are often rooted in local mythology, such as stories about supernatural beings, evil spirits, or gods and goddesses. This mythology forms the basis for shamanic practices and associated rituals. Shamans, psychics, or spiritual figures have a central role in the practice of black magic. They are considered to have special knowledge in spiritual science and have the ability to mediate between the human world and the unseen world. Witchcraft practices that are used to harm other people often cause controversy, conflict, and psychological pressure in society. Legal and ethical issues are often associated with this practice. The culture of shamanic witchcraft has undergone changes and adaptations over time. The influence of official religions such as Islam and Christianity has influenced some practices, creating variations in spiritual approaches and beliefs. Cultural studies and anthropology play an important role in understanding the practice of witchcraft and its impact on society. A deeper understanding of this culture helps us appreciate the cultural diversity of the archipelago and how this culture continues to develop and adapt to changing times.

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