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Balinese Temples

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Balinese Temples

Abstract

There is a temple; the name is Pura Dalem. It is the Kerambitan Temple by the post office. The name of the god there is Dewi Durga. Dewi Durga is like a body guard, and protects all of Kerambitan. [*excerpt*]

Keywords

Bali, Indonesia, temple, gods, offerings, ritual, tradition, prayer

Disciplines

Asian Studies | East Asian Languages and Societies | History of Religions of Eastern Origins | International and Area Studies | Religion

Comments

This piece is part of the Bali Soundscapes collection, which features photographs, audio essays, and written essays by Gettysburg College students who took the *Language, Culture, & Immigration in Bali* course during the summer of 2013. See <http://cupola.gettysburg.edu/balisoundscapes/> for more.

Balinese Temples

There is a temple; the name is Pura Dalem. It is the Kerambitan Temple by the post office. The name of the god there is Dewi Durga. Dewi Durga is like a body guard, and protects all of Kerambitan. Everyone in Kerambitan goes to the temple to pray every 210 days (a year on the Balinese calendar). This festival lasts for ten days and celebrates the victory between Dharma (good) and Adharma (evil). Galungan marks the beginning of the ceremony when all the ancestors' spirits come to Earth and the Calonarang dance is performed. In this dance Rangda (the witch) accuses people of being bad. She gets out of control and Barong (the protector) comes and takes Rangda away. The end of the ceremony is called Kuningan when the ancestors' spirits leave. Both at the beginning and end of this 10 day ceremony, another ceremony takes place where an animal is chased, caught, and slaughtered to make offerings to the gods.

The Banjar Wani temple has a different god than Kerambitan. It is Betara lingsir; an old god who protects Banjar Wani. For the two temples we go two different days every six months to pray.

When we go to temples we wear an udang (white hat) and all white, with a sarong that's white. The meaning of white is pure; pure thinking. We want to be close to the god, not thinking everything. We think one thing; praying to god.

House Temples

Every house has one temple. We believe in gods for the blessing. The house temple is put close to the door. After we are done building the temple in our house, we have to go to the Kerambitan temple for blessing the temple. Everyone does that; with gamelan, with offerings, everyone goes to Kerambitan. The blessing brings spirits back into the house after it is built.

Offerings

We have a room for the gods, we put offerings there. We take offerings every 210 days to the temples. In my house temple we make offerings one time every day. The offerings are rice, incense, holy water and flowers. Whatever flowers because all flowers have good smells. They make god happy.