




7-2013

Bathhouses in Banjarwani

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Goellner, Arielle B., "Bathhouses in Banjarwani" (2013). *Bali Soundscapes Essays*. 2.
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Bathhouses in Banjarwani

Abstract

There are two bath houses in Banjarwani, the Beji luk-luk and the Beji Kedampal luk-luk. The particular bathhouse that will be discussed will be Beji luk-luk.

Keywords

Bali, Indonesia, family, bath house, cleanse, ritual, Banjarwani, temple

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.

Bathhouse in Banjarwani

There are two bath houses in Banjarwani, the Beji luk-luk and the Beji Kedampal luk-luk. The particular bathhouse that will be discussed will be Beji luk-luk. One walks down a narrow gang to find the bathhouse where stairs lead down to a covered platform to the right and two sunken baths to the left, and a river just beyond the platform. There is a man's bath and a woman's bath, but they are interchangeable. Women and men may choose any bath they wish, as long as they do not mix. The baths are made entirely of stone and water showers from a spigot in each one; each spigot is surrounded by an elephant sculpture, which holds the spigot. Just before the two baths is a place to give offerings to the gods. After the baths is a gateway to a temple, in which people may pray. Back in times when there was no electricity, the bathhouse was the place where the whole village would go in order to bathe, and here the water never runs dry. Even people from outside the village may come bathe and pray. The bathhouse is open for everyone. Now since the invention of electricity, the bathhouse is less often used for this purpose, but there are other functions to the bathhouse. It is said that the god Vishnu lives here, and she is seen as the caring god. People may come here to pray to her in order to ask for things like safety and fertility. Many women come here to pray to Vishnu in order to become pregnant. People also come here in order to cleanse their items so that they may enter a temple. It is said that water purifies everything, so washing items here cleanses them of their impurities but once they touch the ground the objects become impure, since the ground is considered unholy and a place where demons dwell. The bathhouse is never closed and during holidays, stones are lined up around the bathhouse and one may pray and set offerings down on each stone.