



MINISTRY OF CULTURE
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA



INSTITUT SENI INDONESIA
BALI



CHANDI 2025

Sapuh Leger: Soul Purification Ritual

By: I Komang Sudirga





*Om
Swastyastu*

Background



Humans are cultured beings endowed with morals and intellect

Human societies and cultures around the world have values, social systems, and artifacts that are considered valuable in their lives. They establish social order, follow patterns as distinctive and unique traditions, and contain universal values



Background

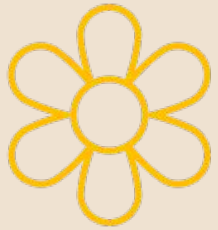


As cultured beings, humans have traditions and rituals that are rich in universal values

With the abilities they possess, humans are naturally capable of living socially, adapting to their surrounding environment, and building unique and distinctive civilizations and cultures



Background

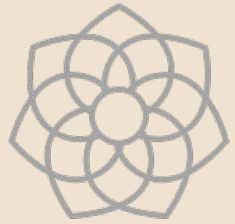


Rituals as cultural identity and cultural heritage

Every universal element of culture has rituals that carry symbolic meaning within social, cultural, and religious contexts. A ritual is a series of patterned actions and a symbolic system, formally organized or established as tradition, to carry out the course of life—whether in the relationship between humans and God or other supreme realities, between humans themselves, or between humans and their environment



Background



Ruwatan Sapuh Leger is one example of a ritual in Bali

The Ruwatan Wayang Sapuh Leger ritual attracts attention from various groups, not only from parents whose children are born in the Wayang week but also from stakeholders, the community, and the government. This phenomenon has gained more attention because it is related to life attitudes, belief systems, and suggestions that raise various concerns about life attitudes in response to conditions perceived as threatening on a spiritual level



Sapuh Leger Phenomena



It attracts widespread attention because it is related to belief systems



Mass ruwatan to reduce the community's costs



An opportunity for the preservation of tradition as well as modern spirituality



Purpose of the Study



01

To understand the background of the Ruwatan Sapuh Leger implementation



02

To explore the motivations of the Balinese community in carrying out this tradition



03

To explain the function and meaning of the Sapuh Leger ritual





Source of Study

Ward Keeler: perbandingan
Jawa-Bali.

Claire Holt: mitos Bhatara Kala.

Hooykas: teks lakon Dewa Kala.

I Gusti Ngurah Bagus: fungsi nyapuh
leger.

Other resources related with
protection and purification value

Belief in Time and Space



Bali recognizes the culture of sacred space and time



A child born in the Wayang week is considered vulnerable to misfortune



It is believed that there will be a threat from Bhatara Kala



A ruwatan is performed to avoid danger.

The background of the slide is a dark, semi-transparent image of a Wayang Kulit performance. Several figures in traditional white clothing and headgear are visible, with one figure in the center holding a microphone. The image is framed by ornate, golden-brown decorative borders at the top and bottom, featuring intricate floral and scrollwork patterns.

Philosophy and Function

Temporal: every 210 days (Tumpek Wayang)

Cosmological: to avoid dangers during transitional times

Spiritual: therapy for the soul, purification, and sanctification

Myth

The Lontar of Sapuh Leger

- The story of Sang Hyang Kala and Rare Kumara.
- Kala wanted to devour his younger sibling who was born in the Wayang week.
- The Dalang saved Kumara through a performance.
- Kala was defeated and granted the authority to hold a ceremony for the purification of human souls



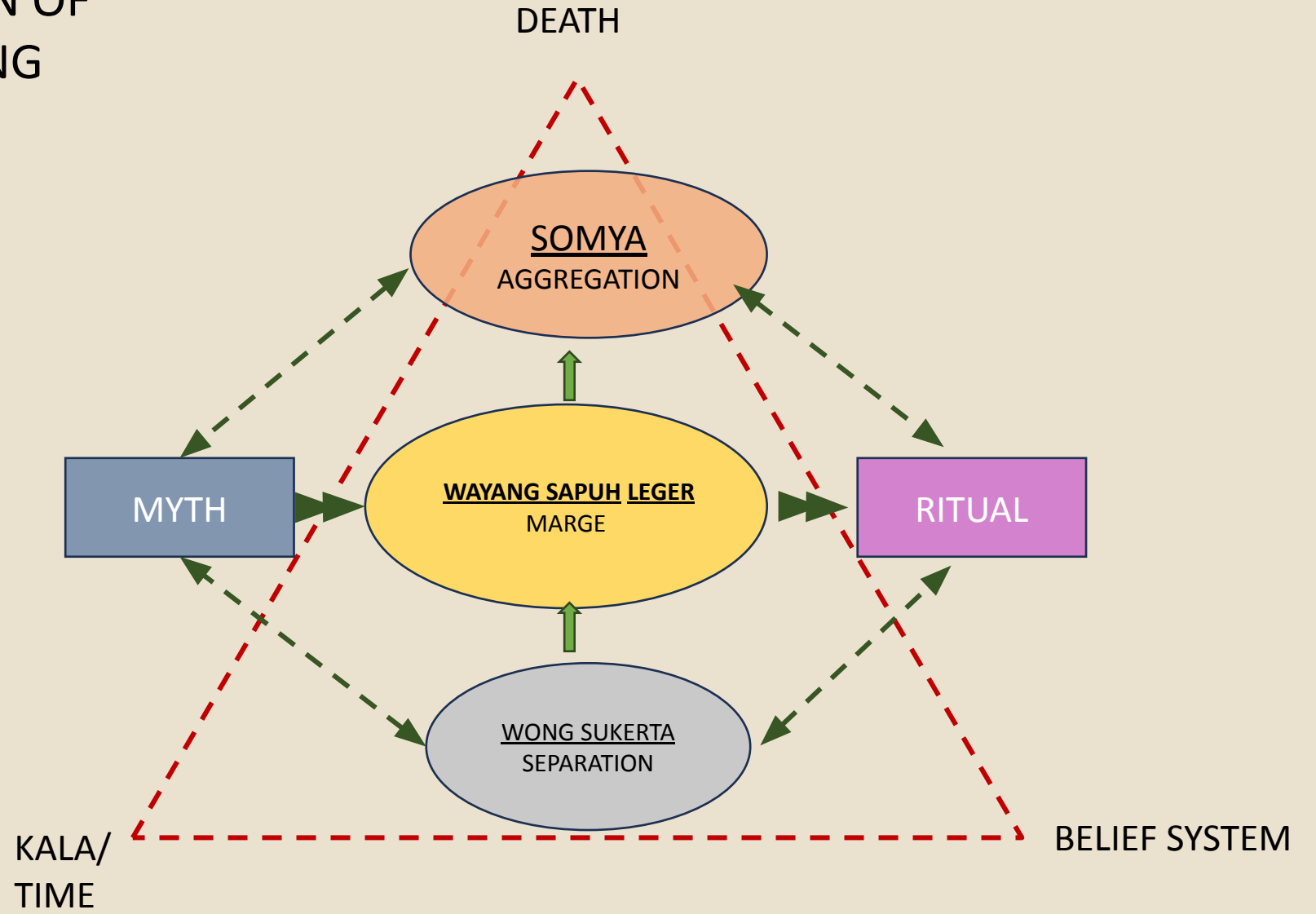
A person wearing a traditional Balinese headpiece and a light-colored garment is shown in profile, performing a ritual. They are holding a small, dark, bowl-like object in their hands. The background is a textured, woven surface, possibly a wall or a backdrop. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the person's face and hands being the primary light sources.

The Meaning of Sapuh Leger

- Sapuh = cleansing/ruwatan
- Leger = mala/birthborne impurities
- Wayang Sapuh Leger = sacred ceremony for the purification of the soul.



PATTERN OF THINKING



Conclusion

- Sapuh Leger is a ritual for the purification of the soul.
- This ritual is performed to protect children born in the Wayang week.
- Sapuh Leger contains spiritual, social, and cultural values.
- Sapuh Leger is an intangible cultural heritage that needs to be preserved

Thank You



Om Santih Santih Santih
Om