

Religion as the Spirit of Arts in Bali

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Kehidupan beragama dan berkesenian masyarakat Bali saling terkait dan saling mengisi. Tidak ada dominasi dan hegemoni pada kedua unsur dimaksud. Praktik beragama mengacu pada slogan *satyam siwam sundaram* (kebenaran, kesucian keindahan) dilengkapi kesenian. Sementara kreativitas berkesenian mendapat penjiwaan dari agama Hindu. Tampak bahwa di satu sisi berkesenian sebagai unsur budaya dapat mewadahi dan menampakkan wajah kehidupan beragama, di sisi lain agama dapat menjadi roh yang berwujud nyata dalam berkesenian. Agama Hindu ajarannya mencakup *tattwa* (filsafat) sebagai sumber ide, *susila* pedoman berperilaku, dan upacara memberi pengukuhan energi spiritual (*taksu*) berkesenian. *Tattwa* memunculkan ide aktivitas berkesenian, berlanjut dengan mempersiapkan sumber daya termasuk perangkanya, kemudian melaksanakan kegiatan berkesenian. Kehidupan beragama dan berkesenian di Bali dipandang dalam satu keatuan antara roh dan badan. Hal ini tampak pada penyerapan seni dalam Veda dimodifikasi dan dikembangkan dengan kearifan lokal di Bali. Jalinan agama sebagai roh berkesenian di Bali telah berjalan ratusan tahun dan tidak dapat dipisahkan satu dengan yang lain. Keadaan dimaksud dapat membawa kejegan budaya, kedamaian serta kesejahteraan orang banyak secara lahir batin, sehingga tetap harus dapat dilestarikan sepanjang jaman.

The religious and arts life of the Balinese are interconnected and fulfill each other. There is domination or hegemony on the two subjects. The religious practices are based on *satyam siwam sundaram* (truth, ethics, and beauty) slogan and complemented by the arts. Meanwhile the arts are embodied by Hinduism. It can be observed clearly that the arts as one aspect of culture is the vessel and representation of religion, and on the other hand religion becomes the spirit embodied in the arts. The Hinduism teaching covers *tattwa* (philosophy) as the source of ideas, ethics as the behavior guidance, and upacara as the spiritual empowerment in arts. *Tattwa* prompts the ideas for artistic activities, to be continued by preparing the resources including means and tools and the implementation of the artistic activities. The religious and artistic life in Bali is viewed as a union of body and soul. This can be seen from the absorbment of modified Vedic arts which then developed by Balinese local genius. The entwined spirit of Balinese arts has existed for hundreds of years and cannot be separated. Said state, can bring the cultural solidity, peace and prosperity for the people's body and soul, therefore should always be preserved.

Keywords: Religions, spirit, and arts life

Many people have made a mistake to conclude that the Hinduism adhered to in Bali is a cultural religion, especially when they see that the performances of great ceremonies are always completed with art activities. Actually, this is an attempt to show what religion looks like, indicating that Hinduism should be applied by referring to *satyam, siwam, sundaram* (truth, holiness, and beauty). Religion is revealed by God; what is revealed inspires humans

to do activities which then lead to the creation of cultural words such as arts. Therefore, in the level of concepts, one should be able to distinguish religion from culture, although, in practice, religion cannot be separated from culture. Similarly, arts and religion cannot be separated in Bali; arts are one of the cultural elements which support religious practices, and every art performance is inspired by Hinduism.