

**ANSWERING TERROR WITH ART:
SHAKESPEARE AND THE BALINESE RESPONSE TO
TO BOMBING OF OCTOBER 12, 2002**

Ron Jenkins and Nyoman Catra

(With special thanks to the Asian Cultural Council, The Nordic Institute for Asian Studies, I Nyoman Sedhana & Robin Tato)

Abstract

The following article examines the concept of culture as a weapon that can be used to help shape a non-violent response to aggression. The first part of the article describes the cultural response (in the form of religious ceremonies and related performances) of the Balinese to the terrorist attack of October 12, 2002 as an alternative model to the military response of the United States to the bombings of September 11, 2001. The second part uses Balinese religious philosophy as a lens through which Shakespeare's "Tempest" can be interpreted and performed, emphasizing the links between the world views of the Balinese and the Elizabethans as a way of understanding the play's vision of an island 'full of noises, sounds and sweet airs' on which the characters learn to respond to aggression with non-violent means framed by music, dance, performance spectacle, and knowledge of sacred books.

Key Words : Answering Terror