

Religious Values in the Folklore of Cetho Temple in Jenawi District, Karanganyar Regency

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Abstract

Cetho Temple is one of Indonesia's tourist attractions that still retains Hindu religious nuances and serves as a venue for religious ceremonies. This study aims to describe and highlight the values present in Cetho Temple folklore, particularly its religious values. The approach used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative descriptive research employs sustainable means adapted to the realities of the field. This research was conducted based on a literature review. The data collected will be analyzed, interpreted, and synthesized to provide accurate and systematic illustrations or representations of the research findings. The data collection method employed in this study is library research. The results of this study demonstrate that the religious values embedded in the folklore of Cetho Temple are still preserved and upheld today. This tradition continues to be practiced, ensuring that those inheriting the community's or ancestors' traditions continue to maintain and care for Cetho Temple.

Keywords: Cetho Temple, Religious value, Folklore

Introduction Section

In essence, culture reflects the existence of a group of people within it. Indonesia is a country with diverse cultures that are valuable national treasures. In the past, society viewed culture as a multifaceted aspect arising from spiritual and virtuous human life, encompassing religion, art, philosophy, science, and more.

The culture that develops within society is a reflection of its thoughts, behaviors, and values. Religion also plays a significant role in shaping cultural values. According to Widyastuti (2021), culture is an integral part of education. Education and culture are closely intertwined, as they depend on each other. Education involves transmitting the nation's culture and identity to the younger generation, as well as fostering the development of cultural identity to enhance the quality of life for future generations (Widyastuti, 2021).

Instilling knowledge about Indonesia's diverse cultures in students is crucial for them to comprehend the values inherent in each regional culture (Setiadi, 2019). As noted by Alifah et al. (2023), cultural knowledge encompasses a wide array of elements, including values, skills, thought patterns, customs, attitudes, and beliefs within society. Beyond mere introduction, cultural education also contributes significantly to enhancing students' personalities.

Literature is an art that describes life based on cultural expression and contains universal religious and humanistic values. Its authenticity bears witness to the cultural life of the people at that time. The values it contains provide many examples for society. Literature as a creative work is the result of realistic consciousness, making life and passing it on to future generations.

Indonesia has regional differences in terms of cultural types and characteristics, which are closely related to the context of local communities as cultural producers. Folk culture is one type of culture that develops in society. Literature is part of oral literature that develops and exists in society, imported and passed on face-to-face or orally from generation to generation, especially from the previous generation to the next generation (Krismonikasari, 2022).

Value is a level of quality that describes the extent to which something is valued, needed, needed, achieved, considered important, useful, and made more worthy by those who pursue it (Simbolon, et al., 2022). Folk literature contains noble values of national culture (Merdiyatna, 2019). In addition to containing noble cultural values applied in educational units, Cut Alfina & Ezik (2021) revealed that some values contained in folk culture can be applied or applied in everyday life, for example by applying examples given by several figures in folk literature.

Javanese culture embodies numerous values crucial for the sustenance of the community surrounding Cetho Temple, driving the continuous preservation of Javanese culture as a noble heritage, irrespective of Hindu or non-Hindu affiliations (Prawesti, et al., 2022). These values, including religious, ethical, and social values, are depicted by the community through religious ceremonies and societal practices.

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Religious values encompass various principles pertaining to the conception of spiritual life, which intricately governs the relationship between humans and their deities (Maulidianto et al., 2021). These values, intertwined with worldly existence, bear resemblance to other societal values such as cultural and social norms. Moreover, religious values pertaining to the afterlife remain a profound mystery in human life (Ngimadudin et al., 2021). According to Ngimadudin et al. (2021), religious values delineate the principles governing religious life and the dynamic between humans and their deities.

Literary works encompass both written and oral forms. Written literature comprises texts containing recorded or written stories. On the other hand, oral literature consists of stories or texts transmitted orally from one generation to another. Oral stories, widely recognized within societies, often fall under the category of folklore. Folklore constitutes a segment of oral literature that has flourished and become communal property, passed down orally through generations.

Folklore comprises narratives rooted in the history of a society (Ramdhani et al., 2019). It possesses the capacity to foster cognitive, creative, and motor skills. Within folklore lie moral messages conveyed not only through its characters but also woven into the plot, addressing various aspects of human existence.

According to Rahmat (2019), folklore constitutes a segment of literature or regional works expressed in regional languages, originating from a time when written literature was unfamiliar. Passed down orally, folklore undergoes various alterations and expansions influenced by different narrators, resulting in numerous variations despite originating from the same core story.

Indonesia boasts numerous Hindu historical sites that serve as both historical landmarks and tourist destinations, among which is Cetho Temple. It retains Hindu religious elements and continues to host religious ceremonies (Maisaroh et al., 2021). Within the folklore surrounding Cetho Temple, the local community plays a significant role in preserving cultural treasures, particularly oral literary traditions. This folklore remains a priority for the Cetho community, enduring and safeguarded through time.

The temple stands as a sacred edifice of significant artistic and historical worth. Erected during the Hindu-Buddhist era, it stands as a cultural asset of Indonesia, showcasing architectural prowess (Yatno, 2022). Located to the west of Mount Lawu in Karanganyar Regency, Cetho Temple stands as an ancient relic (Purwanto, 2020). Its name derives from the village where it stands, 'Cetho,' meaning 'to see clearly' in Javanese. Founded by King Brawijaya V in 1397 Saka or 1475 CE, the temple served as a site for rituals to ward off evil and for worship. Religious scriptures hold a sacred status for believers, embodying their beliefs and ideas about the divine, deity, and spirit. Additionally, religion manifests through ceremonies conducted in specific ways (Koentjaraningrat, 2002: 204).

The objective of this research was to transmit the works of our ancestors to the succeeding generations, thereby preserving and enriching the treasures of regional literary heritage amidst cultural competitions. Regional literature serves as a wellspring of national culture, reflecting our national identity and interests.

There are numerous methods to conserve this heritage, one of which involves passing it down to the succeeding generations. Therefore, if folk culture possesses distinctive characteristics, it is highly suitable for integration into educational purposes, particularly as teaching materials. Despite the profound cultural significance of Cetho Temple, many individuals, as custodians of folk culture, remain unaware of its origins. Stemming from this context, this study poses the following questions: What religious values are embedded in the folklore of Cetho Temple? With the aforementioned problem formulation, this study aims to delineate the religious values that can be gleaned from the folklore of Cetho Temple and their implications for people's lives.

Method

This study utilizes qualitative research with qualitative descriptive analysis methods, specifically data analysis applied to examine all data obtained from various sources, such as observation, interviews, or recorded information (Ernawati & Kanzunudin, 2023). Furthermore, Satori (2017) explains that qualitative research is a methodology that delves into specific social conditions by accurately interpreting verbally articulated reality, based on recording techniques. By collecting and analyzing relevant data from natural settings, qualitative research aims to emphasize meaning rather than generalization (Rohmadi et al., 2015: 24). The research aims to describe the religious values inherent in the folklore of Cetho Temple.

The research object, as defined by Sugiyono (2018), pertains to the target of data collection. In this study, the research object is the religious values embedded within the folklore of Cetho Temple. Data encompasses all information or content provided by nature that researchers must study and accumulate to address the research questions. The data sought after consists of words, phrases, and sentences within the folklore of Cetho Temple that carry religious significance.

This research employs various methods or techniques for collecting research data. It utilizes several data collection techniques, including interviews and literature review. The accuracy of the data will be verified through cross-referencing with other sources to ensure its correctness and reliability. Data was gathered from three distinct sources: managers, community members, and visitors.

Results and Discussion

The research highlights several values that can be gleaned from the folklore of Cetho Temple, particularly religious values. These religious values inherent in the folklore of Cetho Temple will be elucidated as follows.

Religious Values

Religious values encompass the teachings that individuals adhere to, manifesting in actions, behaviors, obedience, and an attitude of tolerance towards other religions, fostering harmony among followers of different faiths (Ellawati, 2023). The belief system of a religion finds expression through religious emotions, which can also be influenced and shaped by this belief system. Moreover, religious values intertwine with secular or worldly life, sharing similarities with other values such as cultural and social aspects. Additionally, religious values bear significant weight concerning the afterlife, a realm that remains shrouded in mystery for many in society.

According to Koentjaraningrat (2000: 144-145), religion is regarded as an integral element of culture. He delineates four conceptual forms of religion, each playing distinct roles, namely: (1) the internal disposition or heart attitude towards religion, (2) the forms of belief, (3) rituals and ceremonies, and (4) the fostering of social cohesion and unity among people.

Religious activity is a universal experience among all humans on earth. This awareness emerges when individuals recognize a force beyond themselves. Human beings become cognizant of the limitations, anxieties, and expectations inherent in worldly existence, prompting them to delve into the religious dimension. This sentiment is encapsulated in the following quote.

Data 1:

"Cetho Temple is a temple that adheres to Hinduism, which was built with the intention of ruwatan, especially for ruwatan as a rescue of humans from various disasters and some form of pressure due to damage that occurred at that time." At that time the Majapahit kingdom had just experienced a process of collapse with social problems, political turmoil, and culture and even religion before finally experiencing total chaos." collapsed in 1478 M" (Prahono, 2011: 12)

Based on the quote above, Hinduism and Buddhism entail distinct teachings, which are symbolized by Cetho Temple. Even after the collapse of the Majapahit Kingdom, there were proponents who endeavored to propagate the teachings of Hinduism, aiming to ensure their preservation for future generations. This tradition persists, with the community's descendants and ancestors steadfastly maintaining and safeguarding Cetho Temple, as exemplified in the following quote.

Data 2:

"Every year the Nyepi celebration is held to continue the ancient tradition of remembering Hinduism and avoid disasters on the island of Java." (Cetho Temple:14)

The quote above illustrates the origins of the Cetho people, who remain staunch advocates of Javanese traditions and culture. This includes the observance of Nyepi, a Hindu celebration. The Hinduism practiced around the Cetho temple complex endures to this day. Within the Cetho temple community, religious life revolves around the temple, serving as a focal point for worship during various ceremonies such as Kuningan, Galungan, Nyepi, Saraswati, Ngembak Geni, Dawuhan, Pager Wesi, Mondosio, and Suro. Additionally, Cetho Temple serves as a venue for rituals aimed at warding off evil, purification (ruwatan), or seeking refuge from curses (Purwitasari, 2022).

Religion encompasses rules or obligations incumbent upon its adherents (Saleh, 2022). Within its folklore, Cetho Temple encapsulates values such as religious and cultural values, which can serve as exemplars for the broader community, particularly the younger generation—the future custodians of the nation. Religious values are closely intertwined with divinity and religious practice. Afroka (2020) outlines indicators of religious values as tawakduk, tawakal, and constant remembrance of God.

This religious value is manifested through the portrayal of characters in the folklore associated with Cetho Temple. Characters in these tales exhibit empathy and sympathy towards others, as readers anticipate them to embody certain values or standards. For instance, Prabu Brawijaya V is depicted as a figure with exemplary religious values, demonstrating empathy and sympathy towards others.

Data 3:

"Prabu Brawijaya said kindly, hoping that his servants would tell him that His Holiness wanted to stick to the teachings of the Prophet (Islam). Prabu wants to invite two of his servants, but you don't want them." (Cetho Temple:3)

The quote exemplifies the religious value embodied by the virtuous and wise character of Prabu Brawijaya V. This is evident in Prabu's patient efforts to encourage his two servants to embrace the teachings of Islam, despite their initial reluctance. Additionally, the religious value is reflected in the portrayal of the character Sabdo Palon, who serves as a loyal guardian to King Brawijaya V while spreading Hindu teachings in Java. Sabdo Palon's steadfast loyalty to escort King Brawijaya V underscores his role as a figure who imparts positive values and norms.

Data 4:

"I (Sabdo Palon) escorted and accompanied the Prabu in spreading Hinduism on the island of Java. Every time Prabu wants to make a decision, I (Sabdo Palon) give advice so that Prabu does not make mistakes." (Cetho Temple:2)

The quote above portrays Sabdo Palon as the faithful companion of Prabu Brawijaya. Sabdo Palon's unwavering loyalty and bravery in protecting and accompanying Prabu exemplify religious values within the folklore of Cetho Temple. Furthermore, religious values are depicted through the character of Kanjeng Sunan Kalijaga, who exhibits patience and perseverance in disseminating Islamic teachings to Prabu, who initially resisted conversion to Islam, as well as to the broader community surrounding the Majapahit Kingdom.

Data 5:

"Even though Prabu has no intention of converting to Islam, I will still spread the teachings of Islam throughout the Kingdom." (Cetho Temple:2)

The quote above highlights Sunan Kalijaga's steadfast and patient demeanor in disseminating the teachings of Islam across the Kingdom. Such a portrayal exemplifies a religious value embedded within the folklore.

In Cetho Temple folklore, religious values are conveyed through narratives of traditional or religious holidays, depicting the solemnity of worship and the uniqueness of traditional processions. Moreover, the folklore of Cetho Karanganyar Temple embodies noble cultural values, upholding the essence of cultural teachings while harmonizing them with existing religions through the process of acculturation.

From the quote above concerning the religious values in the folklore of Cetho Temple, it can be inferred that this community continues to uphold Javanese customs and ways of life. Thus far, the values depicted in folklore are still practiced and serve as guiding principles in people's daily lives. In the life of the residents of Cetho village, traditional celebrations such as Nyepi are still observed annually, aiming to preserve ancestral traditions and prevent their fading into obscurity.

Conclusion

The folklore surrounding the emergence of Cetho Temple in Karanganyar Regency traces back to the decline of the Majapahit era, attributed to the actions of Prabu Brawijaya. The Majapahit Kingdom propagated Hinduism, a faith later disseminated by Prabu Brawijaya and his loyal servant, Sabdo Palon. Key characters in this narrative include Prabu Brawijaya V, Sabdo Palon, and Sunan Kalijaga. At its core, this tale exemplifies the wisdom of a leader fulfilling his responsibilities.

The values explored in the folklore of Cetho Temple predominantly revolve around religious or spiritual values. Culture, on the other hand, emerges from human intellect, labor, and creativity, aiming to fulfill people's yearning for aesthetic beauty. Religion and religious ceremonies constitute universal components of culture. Within the folklore of Cetho Temple, a system of religious ceremonies intertwined with culture is evident, notably the Nyepi religious ceremony, which serves both as a religious observance and a traditional Hindu ceremony.

Religious values are also evident in characters displaying exemplary traits such as perseverance and courage in their endeavors, consistently advocating for the use of faith teachings as guiding principles. These teachings not only serve as life directives but also promote tolerance, fostering harmony among religious communities. The rich cultural heritage embedded in this folklore is replete with values worth acknowledging, emphasizing the importance of preserving local traditions.

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