



## Panca Wali Krama 2019; through fire of Mount Agung Eruption to Overloaded Morgue crisis

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### ABSTRACT

Balinese people hold Yadnya ceremony Panca Wali Krama every ten years. Panca means Five, represents five elements that compose the universe Panca Maha Bhuta, while Bali or Wali means offering or ceremony. In this year, the ritual was considered exceptional due to it took place twice, the first in Lempuyang Luhur Temple and the second in the largest temple in Bali, Besakih Temple. Hindu communities from all regions in Bali came to participate in the event, as their symbol of faith toward the God Almighty. This ten-year event took place for more than twenty days in Lempuyang Luhur and thirty-seven days in Besakih temple. While Panca Wali

Krama was taking place at Besakih, Mount Agung has been reported experiencing several hiccups on 9, 15 and 21 March 2019. Despite the eruption, the communities kept doing their prayer and service at the temple located on the slope of the volcano. Meanwhile, another crisis was faced by hospitals on the island, due to an announcement from the official to ban Ngaben ceremony until the Yadnya is over. As a result, Mortuary in several hospitals was reported overloaded. The official and Government hastily response to the overloaded problem, since according to Balinese Hindu believe, keeping the dead body stranded was considered defiling the area.

**Keyword:** Panca Wali Krama, Eruption, Mortuary

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### BACKGROUND

Balinese people hold *Yadnya* ceremony *Panca Wali Krama* every ten years. Panca means Five, represents five elements that compose the universe *Panca Maha Bhuta*, while Bali or Wali means offering or ceremony. If we discuss the *Yadnya* ceremony in Bali, mostly aims to invoke welfare, protection, and peace to the universe, including the Panca Wali krama ceremony. In this year, the ritual was considered exceptional due to it took place twice, the first in Lempuyang Luhur Temple and the second in the largest temple in Bali, Besakih Temple.

The ceremony in Lempuyang Temple was re-held after vacuuming for hundreds of years. Its guideline is written on the script of *Brahmanda Rajapurana*.<sup>1</sup> The series of the ceremony began with *Segara Kertih* on 11 January 2019 on Amed Beach, carried by seven traditional villages in Abang District. Meanwhile, thirteen indigenous villages from twenty traditional villages in Abang Subdistrict carry out the peak of ceremony, on January 20<sup>th</sup>.<sup>2</sup>

Since Panca Wali Krama is a grand event, thus it is not held in every temple on the island. In addition to the Lempuyang Luhur Temple, the same ritual was held as well in Besakih Temple. Besakih Temple has philosophical and historical values as a temple of 'origins,' a sacred place which has the title of the

oldest worship place and the highest CenterPoint for Balinese Hindus.<sup>3</sup> Pura Besakih as a sacred place was explicitly stated in the letter addressed to the governor by the Regional Head dated August 31, 1951, Letter No. B / 6 / 5/14. One of the five points mentioned in the letter expressed that the temple Besakih, is classified into sacred temples because it is the first temple in Balinese history and every Galungan, people of Bali respects it by erecting *Penjor* on the right side of their house gate.<sup>4</sup>

The Panca Wali Krama series at Besakih Temple began on January 22, 2019. According to a circular from the PHDI Chairperson of Bali, Prof. Dr. I Gusti Ngurah Sudiana, there are several ceremonies before the main event, in the order according to **Table 1**.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, thousands of people, including the Governor and Vice Governor, Regent or Mayor in each district of Bali flocked at Besakih temple to attend the ritual of taking the God's holy relic at the Penataran Agung Besakih. This procession began around 3 PM Bali local time, although the rain poured over the temple, it did not lower the enthusiasm of the community. The procession was started by taking out the relic of deity *Ida Bhataras Lingsir* from its shrine. Bali Governor, I Wayan Koster and Vice Governor, Tjokorda Oka Artha Ardana Sukawati performed the duty to carry the relic. Continued by the relic

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**Table 1.** Schedule of Panca Wali Krama series 2019 at Besakih Temple

No	Date	Time	Details
1	Tuesday, 22 Januari 2019	10.00 Wita	<i>matur piuning &amp; ngaku agem</i> di Pura Agung Besakih
2	Friday, 1 Februari 2019	10.00 Wita	<i>nunas tirta panglukatan &amp; pamarisudha</i> di Pura Dalem Puri Besakih
3	Wednesday, 6 Februari 2019	08.00 Wita	<i>ngaturang pemiut</i> at Pura Penataran Agung Besakih
		09.00 Wita	Council determining the best day for ritual, <i>ngingsah nyangling, ngentegang &amp; ngunggahang sunari</i>
		13.00 Wita	<i>pengemit lan pangrajeg karya</i>
4	Friday, 15 Februari 2019	10.00 Wita	<i>nyukat genah tawur, dan ngawit nanceb wewangunan</i> at Bencingah Agung Besakih
5	Tuesday, 19 Februari 2019	10.00 Wita	<i>mamineh empehan &amp; makarya madu parka</i> di Suci Pura Penataran Agung Besakih
6	Wednesday, 27 Februari 2019		<i>nuwur tirta</i> to Mount Semeru, east java & Mount Rinjani, Lombok
7	Thursday, 28 Februari 2019	10.00 Wita	<i>nuwur tirta</i> to Mount Agung, & Sad Kahyangan temples di Bali
			<i>bumi sudha, &amp; pamarisudha</i> at Bencingah Agung Besakih
8	Friday 1 Maret 2019	15.00 Wita	<i>nedunang pralingga</i> Ida Betara di Pura Agung Besakih
9	Saturday, 2 Maret 2019 - Monday, 4 Maret 2019		<i>melasti</i> from Besakih to Watu Klotok beach, Klungkung
10	Tuesday, 5 Maret 2019	10.00 Wita	<i>mapepada tawur agung Panca Wali Krama</i>
		18.00 Wita	<i>Memben</i> at Bencingah Agung Besakih
11	Wednesday, 6 Maret 2019	08.00 Wita	Ritual of Tawur Agung Panca Wali Krama
12	Thursday, 7 Maret 2019	05.00 Wita	<i>Penganyar</i> , then a daybreak to commemorate Nyepi
13	Friday, 8 Maret 2019	10.00 Wita	<i>penganyar</i>
14	Saturday, 9 Maret 2019	10.00 Wita	<i>penganyar &amp; mlaspas lan mapedagingan</i>
		14.00 Wita	<i>Penglemek Tawur Agung Panca Wali Krama</i>
15	Sunday, 10 Maret 2019 - Monday 18 Maret 2019		<i>penganyar</i>
16	Tuesday, 19 Maret 2019	10.00 Wita	<i>penganyar &amp; Mepepada Betara Turun Kabeh</i>
		18.00 Wita	<i>memben</i>
17	Wednesday, 20 Maret 2019		The peak ceremony of <i>Ida Betara Turun Kabeh</i>
18	Thursday, 21 Maret 2019 - Friday, 22 Maret 2019		<i>penganyar</i>
19	Saturday, 23 Maret 2019		<i>penganyar lan pengelemek</i>
20	Sunday, 24 Maret - Monday, 1 April 2019		<i>penganyar</i>
21	Tuesday, 2 April 2019		<i>penganyar</i> and <i>Rsi Bhojana</i>
22	Wednesday, 3 April 2019 - Thursday, 11 April 2019		<i>penganyar</i>
23	Friday, 12 April 2019	10.00 Wita	<i>penganyar</i>
		15.00 Wita	<i>nunas tirta panglebar</i> , then <i>penyineban</i>

of *Pura Gelap* Besakih was carried by Klungkung Regent, I Nyoman Suwirta and Viceregent, Made Kasta then, the rest of the relics were carried by the other head of regencies in Bali. Then, All the sacred relics were displayed in the Penataran Agung. The procession has meant that all deities had gathered, to continue marching toward Watu Klotok beach.<sup>5</sup>

Before The sacred relics marched toward Watu klotok Beach, the entourage performed a prayer

in Besakih Temple. After the prayer finished, the entourage began their travel, led by The Relics of *Ida Bhatara Catur Lawa*, consist of four deities *Ida Bhatara Ratu Bagus Pande, Ratu Pasek, Ratu Bagus Penyarikan*, and *Ratu Dukuh Segening* followed by other Relics. The entourage in the first day marched in a relay, covered distance about 27 kilometers to Watu Klotok beach, in Klungkung regency.





**Figure 1** After the prayer finished, the entourage began their travel, led by The Relics of Ida Bhatara Catur Lawa, consist of four deities Ida Bhatara Ratu Bagus Pande, Ratu Pasek, Ratu Bagus Penyarikan, and Ratu Dukuh Segening followed by other Relics.<sup>6</sup>



**Figure 2.** The sacred relics marched toward Watu klotok Beach<sup>7</sup>



**Figure 3.** At Watu Klotok Beach<sup>8</sup>

After the Melasti procession at Watu Klotok, the entourage proceeded to Penataran Agung Klungkung Temple on Semeru Street, Semarapura. The party stayed overnight and continued the travel on the next day, on Sunday 03 February 2019. On the second day, the convoy visited several temples and villages: Puseh Temple in Tohjiwa Village, Paksebbali Village, Lebu Village, and then the entourage stayed for overnight at Puseh Tebola Temple in Sidemen Village, the procession then continued on Monday (03/04/2019). When the convoy returned at the Besakih Temple, the community then placed the relics on the altar. The procession was halted for three days due to preparation for Nyepi Day. The series of the ceremony lasted for a month and seven days, from January 22<sup>nd</sup> until April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019.<sup>9</sup>

Hundreds of Penjor were firmly stood in several villages in Karangasem and Klungkung areas. In this journey, the entourage passed twenty-nine Pakraman villages in the Karangasem and Klungkung areas within three days. Hundreds of thousands of people joined to relay the sacred relics entourage with a total travel distance reached 64.3 kilometers.

## MOUNT AGUNG ERUPTION

During the Panca Wali Krama at Besakih temple, Mount Agung experienced several eruptions on 9, 15 and 21 March 2019. According to data of the Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation Centre, Mount Agung erupted On Saturday 9 March at 12:47 pm Bali local time. The Mountain watcher reported the eruption on Friday (3/15) occurred at 18:27. The ash column height around 1,000 meters above the peak, with eruption duration about 1 minute 23 seconds. The eruption also occurred on Thursday morning (3/21) at 1:18 p.m. The community who come to the Besakih temple, which is located on the slope of the mountain, could clearly see the eruptions. Despite experiencing few quakes and eruptions, the official kept the mountain status on level III (Standby). According to the Head committee of Panca Wali Krama, Jro mangku Widiartha, the eruption did not interfere with the ceremony procession.

Head of the observer Post in Rendang district, I Dewa Made Mertayasa, said that there is a possibility that Gunung Agung might erupt, due to its recent activities. However, the eruption would be small in intensity. Therefore, the official prohibited residents not to carry out any activities within a radius of 4 kilometers from the crater. Meanwhile, Chairperson of the Committee for Panca Wali Krama, Jro Mangku Widiartha said that the Mount Agung eruption did not disturb the ritual. The





**Figure 4.** Mount Agung erupted On Saturday 9 March at 12.47 pm Bali local time. The Mountain watcher reported the eruption on Friday (3/15) occurred at 18:27. The ash column height around 1,000 meters above the peak, with eruption duration about 1 minute 23 seconds.<sup>10</sup>

communities who visited Besakih Temple, for pray or doing their service were still allowed to do their activity within the temple area.<sup>11</sup>

### MORTUARY OVERLOADED

Panca Wali Krama started from March 6 to April 12, 2019. During the event, there was an announcement from the PHDI, to ban *Ngaben* cremation for the deceased until the ritual is over. However, the majority of the people did not comprehend the message well; as a result, mortuaries in several hospitals were reported full due to the late family decided to keep the body until the Panca Wali Krama series at Besakih temple is over. The Chairperson of PHDI Bali Province, I Gusti Ngurah Sudiana, said the overload occurred because the communities misunderstood the announcement.<sup>12</sup>

In Mangusada Hospital, Badung, 116 bodies

have been deposited in a mortuary while there are more than 20 bodies kept inside a tent due to mortuary overloaded. Mortuary at the Sanglah Central General Hospital reported increased by 50 percent. The total remains deposited in the morgue of Sanglah General Hospital during the Panca Wali Krama reached 106 bodies, and continued to increase every few days. The situation, according to Balinese Hindu believe, is not suitable and considered defiling the area. The dead must be placed on the correct place.

The Main Council of Pakraman Village (MUDP) hastily asked the Hindus family to take the bodies of their relatives from the morgue, to be taken to the cemetery. The bodies that died during the Panca Wali Krama ceremony could be buried or Cremated in ritual *Mekingsan ringgni* (similar with *Ngaben* but with different intention). For a commoner, MUDP instructed for the bodies to be buried after sunset While for the priest, it is allowed to be cremated through ritual *Mekingsan ringgni*. In response, the Governor of Bali, I Wayan Koster, appealed to the family to follow MUDP's instructions. He expressed his support toward MUDP consideration and expecting the information can be carried out as soon as possible by the community, community leaders and other parties.<sup>16</sup>

### CONCLUSIONS

In 2019, a grand *Yadnya* ceremony, Panca Wali Krama was held two times in Lempuyang Luhur Temple and Besakih Temple. Hindu communities from all regions in Bali came to participate in the event, as their symbol of faith toward the God Almighty. This ten-year event took place for more than twenty days in Lempuyang Luhur and thirty-seven days in Besakih temple. While Panca Wali Krama was taking place at Besakih, Mount Agung has been reported experiencing several hiccups on 9, 15 and 21 March 2019. Despite the eruption, the communities kept doing their prayer and service



**Figure 5**

**Figure 5 & 6** In Mangusada Hospital, Badung, 116 bodies have been deposited in a mortuary while there are more than 20 bodies kept inside a tent due to mortuary overloaded



**Figure 6**



**Figure 7.** Mortuary overloaded at Tabanan Hospital

at the temple located on the slope of the volcano. Meanwhile, another crisis was faced by hospitals on the island, due to an announcement from the official to ban Ngaben ceremony until the Yadnya is over. As a result, Mortuary in several hospitals was reported overloaded. The official and Government hastily response to the overloaded problem, since according to Balinese Hindu believe, keeping the dead body stranded was considered defiling the area.

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