



Baligram.me Study Sheet: Understanding Balinese Religion

Term	Definition	Example Sentence
Animism (noun)	the belief that all objects, places, and creatures possess a distinct spiritual essence	The Balinese incorporate animism into their Hindu worship by revering spirits of nature and ancestors
Agama (noun)	an officially recognized religion in Bali	Balinese Hinduism has been adapted to be eligible for the status of agama in Bali
Trinity (noun)	a group of three deities or persons	In Balinese Hinduism, Brahma, Shiva, and Vishnu form the most important trinity of gods
Revere (verb)	to feel deep respect or admiration for something	Balinese Hinduism incorporates reverence for Hindu gods along with local animism and ancestor worship
Liberation (noun)	freedom from the cycle of birth and death, which is sought after in Balinese Hinduism	One of the five pillars of faith in Balinese Hinduism is the belief in ultimate liberation from the cycle of life and death

Understanding Balinese Religion

Balinese Hinduism is a unique form of Hindu worship practiced by the majority of the population of Bali [1].

Unlike in India, where Hinduism developed as a structured religion, Balinese Hinduism incorporates local animism, ancestor worship, and reverence for Hindu gods [1]. The Balinese people have adapted their form of Hinduism to be politically eligible for the status of agama, which is an officially recognized religion in Bali [1].

Balinese Hinduism is deeply rooted in nature and emphasizes the interconnectedness of all living beings [2]. The Balinese view the world as a delicate balance between the forces of light and shadow, good and bad, which coexist harmoniously [2]. They strive to find harmony and balance in every situation and ultimately seek emotional freedom and liberation from the endless cycle of birth and death [4].

Balinese Hinduism has its origins in the arrival of Indian merchants who brought the teachings of Hinduism to the Indonesian archipelago [2]. However, it fused with the existing animistic beliefs of the local population, giving rise to a distinct form of Hinduism in Bali [2]. The Balinese worship a variety of gods and demons, with the trinity of Brahma, Shiva, and Vishnu being the most

important [3].

They also have gods specific to the island, such as gods of earth, fire, water, mountains, fertility, rice, and technology [3]. Balinese Hinduism is deeply ingrained in Balinese culture and traditions, with over 20,000 Hindu temples, or "pura," found throughout the island [5]. These temples serve different functions and are arranged according to the physical and spiritual realms of Balinese Hinduism [5].

The Balinese people follow the philosophy of Tri Hita Karana, which emphasizes maintaining a harmonious relationship with God, people, and nature [5]. This philosophy is reflected in their way of life, architecture, agriculture, and traditions [5].

Balinese Hinduism is also based on five pillars of faith, including the belief in a Supreme God, the belief in one soul, the belief in the law of cause and effect, the belief in birth and rebirth, and the belief in ultimate liberation from the cycle of life and death [4]. These pillars guide the Balinese in their daily rituals and ceremonies, which are seen as a way to connect with the gods, ancestors, families, and community [5]. Overall, Balinese Hinduism is a vibrant and deeply ingrained aspect of Balinese culture and identity [3].

In conclusion, Balinese Hinduism is a unique form of Hindu worship practiced by the majority of the population of Bali [1]. It incorporates local animism, ancestor worship, and reverence for Hindu gods, and is deeply rooted in nature and the interconnectedness of all living beings [2]. Balinese Hinduism has its origins in the arrival of Indian merchants and has evolved over the centuries, adapting to changing times while preserving its core values and traditions [2].

The Balinese people follow the philosophy of Tri Hita Karana and base their faith on five pillars, which guide their daily rituals and ceremonies [4]. Balinese Hinduism is deeply ingrained in Balinese culture and traditions, with numerous Hindu temples found throughout the island [5]. It is a vibrant and integral part of Balinese identity and way of life [3].

References:

[1] Balinese Hinduism - Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balinese_Hinduism

[2] An introduction to Balinese Hinduism: Origins, Rituals, and Culture - Baligram Magazine

<https://baligram.me/blog/balinese-hinduism-introduction-for-visitors>

[3] Balinese Hinduism Explained - Medium

<https://medium.com/bali-in-a-few-words/balinese-hinduism-explained-e3316a16a535>

[4] Bali Religion: Finding Balance between Shadow and Light - BaliSpirit

<https://www.balispirit.com/community/blog/bali-religion-finding-balance-between-shadow-and-light>

[5] Balinese Culture and Traditions | Viceroy Bali Blog

<https://www.viceroybali.com/en/blog/bali-activities/balinese-culture/>

[6] BALINESE RELIGION - Facts and Details

https://factsanddetails.com/indonesia/Minorities_and_Regions/sub6_3h/entry-4024.html

Reading Summary

- Balinese Hinduism is a unique form of Hindu worship practiced in Bali.
- It incorporates local animism, ancestor worship, and reverence for Hindu gods.
- The Balinese people follow the philosophy of Tri Hita Karana and base their faith on five pillars.

Multiple Choice Questions

Question #1	Question #2	Question #3
According to the text, what is the philosophy followed by the Balinese people?	What is one important detail about Balinese Hinduism mentioned in the text?	What is the main idea of this passage?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. The philosophy of Tri Hita KaranaB. The philosophy of Brahma, Shiva, and VishnuC. The philosophy of animism and ancestor worshipD. The philosophy of Buddhism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Balinese Hinduism is a structured religion like in India.B. Balinese Hinduism does not incorporate local animism.C. Balinese Hinduism has over 20,000 Hindu temples.D. Balinese Hinduism originated in Bali.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Balinese Hinduism is a unique form of Hindu worship practiced in Bali.B. Balinese Hinduism is based on the teachings of Indian merchants.C. Balinese Hinduism is a religion that worships a variety of gods and demons.D. Balinese Hinduism is deeply ingrained in Balinese culture and traditions.

Short Answer Questions

Question #1	What is the philosophy of Tri Hita Karana and how does it influence Balinese Hinduism?
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	

Question #2	How did Balinese Hinduism evolve over time and what are its core values and traditions?
--------------------	---

Question #3	What gods do the Balinese worship and how are they incorporated into Balinese Hinduism?
--------------------	---

Open Ended Questions

Question #1	How does the concept of finding harmony and balance in every situation resonate with your own life?
--------------------	---

Question #2	In what ways do you see the interconnectedness of all living beings in your own
--------------------	---

	experiences or observations?
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	

Question #3	Reflect on the five pillars of faith in Balinese Hinduism. Are there any similar beliefs or values that guide your own daily rituals or ceremonies?
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	