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An Examination Of The Belief In Superstition Within American And Madurese Cultures.

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ABSTRAK

Takhayul adalah keyakinan irasional yang tidak memiliki bukti empiris atau alasan logis. Takhayul adalah narasi yang diwariskan secara turun-temurun oleh masyarakat Madura dan Amerika. Kepercayaan takhayul seperti kepercayaan terhadap benda-benda keramat masih dianut baik oleh masyarakat Madura maupun Amerika. Keyakinan ini terwujud dalam berbagai ritual dan cerita yang tertanam kuat dalam kehidupan sosial mereka, yang berfungsi sebagai gudang pengetahuan takhayul. Kepercayaan terhadap entitas legendaris dianggap aneh, aneh, dan tidak rasional baik oleh masyarakat maupun masyarakat modern. Penulis mengkaji kepercayaan terhadap takhayul baik di kalangan masyarakat Madura maupun Amerika, baik pada zaman dulu maupun sekarang. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjawab berbagai pertanyaan. Pertanyaannya berkaitan dengan definisi takhayul. Apa asal muasal takhayul dalam budaya Amerika dan Madura? Tolong berikan contoh takhayul dari budaya Amerika dan Madura. Mengapa orang-orang masa kini terus menganut kepercayaan takhayul?.

ABSTRACT

Superstition is an irrational belief that lacks empirical evidence or logical reasoning. Superstitions are narratives passed down through generations by the Madurese and Americans. Superstitious beliefs, such as the belief in sacred objects, are still upheld by both the Madurese and Americans. These beliefs manifest in numerous rituals and stories that are deeply ingrained in their social lives, serving as a repository of superstitious knowledge. The belief in legendary entities is perceived as peculiar, odd, and irrational by both people and modern society. The author examines the belief in superstition among both the Madurese and Americans, both in ancient times and in the present day. This study aims to address multiple inquiries. The query pertains to the definition of superstition. What are the origins of superstition in American and Madurese cultures? Please provide examples of superstitions from both American and Madurese cultures. Why do contemporary individuals continue to hold onto superstitious beliefs?.

INTRODUCTION

Superstitious thoughts or behaviours that stem from stimuli in our surroundings, such as anxiety, uncertainty, or unpredictable scenarios, aid us in navigating and conquering these circumstances. Despite lacking scientific basis, superstition is pervasive across nearly all human cultures. The diversity of superstitions can be elucidated using concepts of cultural evolution and environmental psychology. When an organism forms a



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connection between two events that were previously linked but no longer exist in the current environment, it results in the development of superstition. The development of habits in our species is also connected to the presence of superstition.

Habituation plays a significant role in the process of learning and the ability to adapt behaviour. An examination of literature indicates that superstition, which arises from the interaction between humans and their surroundings, necessitates comprehension of culture, behaviour, and environment. The prevalence of inexpensive superstitions is more widespread than superstitions that involve big expenses. Superstitions are illogical beliefs that are culturally transmitted and manifest as behavioural habits. The term superstition originates from the word "khayal," which refers to the mental representation of something, whether it is perceived consciously or in a dream. Superstition, in essence, refers to the act of placing faith in notions that lack truth or feasibility. Superstition is a fallacious belief in anything that lacks empirical evidence, and it manifests itself through narratives of uncertain provenance.

Superstition refers to ideas inherited from ancestors that lack scientific validation. In essence, superstition entails believing in unseen phenomena only based on imagination and creativity, correct? According to Islamic sources, which include both the Qur'an and Hadith, Superstition is the belief held by our ancestors that has not been substantiated by scientific evidence. The term "superstition" originates from the Arabic word "al-tahayul," which denotes notions that are imaginary, speculative, and fantastical. Superstition, as defined, refers to the belief in the existence of unseen forces, rooted in inventiveness derived from Islamic texts. These beliefs persist and flourish alongside the growth of the Hindu kingdoms that embraced mysticism as a prominent aspect. Superstition compels individuals to venerate trees, stones, or other revered artefacts, believed to possess the power to ward off calamity or bestow advantage. This is a consequence of superstition, where both the belief in the oneness of God's lordship and the belief in the worship of a servant will be weakened and undermined. Superstition refers to the belief in anything that lacks factual basis or evidence.

METHOD

Research Design

This study involves conducting field research, which specifically focuses on extensively studying the background of the current situation and the environmental interactions of a social unit, be it individuals, groups, institutions, or society as a whole (McCutcheon, 2021). Field work involves the investigation and analysis of data obtained from specific places or study fields. This data pertains to prices, promotions, and their influence on the company's sales volume.

The objective of this research is to ascertain the definition of superstitions, identify the sources of superstition in American and Madurese civilizations, provide examples of superstitions from both cultures, and understand the reasons behind the continued belief in superstitions by modern individuals. In addition to that, researchers employ library research. Engage in the examination of literary works, such as books, notes, or study papers from earlier studies (Pujiyanto, 2016).

The research employed the library technique as the data collection method. This involved reading, studying, and taking notes on relevant literature or reading material. The information gathered was then filtered and incorporated into the theoretical framework (Kartini Kartono, Pengantar Metodologi Research, Bandung: 1998). Following the collection of data, a thorough analysis was conducted to compare superstitions in American and Madurese society.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

a. Definition of Superstitions

Superstition originates from the term "khayal," which refers to the mental image or perception that an individual holds about something, whether in a state of awareness or during a dream. Superstition is a fallacy, an unsubstantiated belief that lacks empirical evidence. Superstition is present in narratives of uncertain provenance or narratives originating from dreams and narratives lacking logical coherence. Superstition can be defined as the believing in things that cannot be seen, but this belief is exclusively based on human reasoning and not on Islamic sources, such as the Qur'an and Hadith (Abdullah Al-Wasaf, Pokok-Pokok Keimanan).

Superstitions are ancestral beliefs that lack scientific validation. The term "superstition" originates from the Arabic word al-tahayul, which denotes the concepts of fiction, supposition, and fantasy. Superstition, as

defined, refers to a belief in the supernatural that is rooted in cleverness rather than Islamic teachings (Abdullah Al-Wasaf, Pokok-Pokok Keimanan). These ideas persisted and evolved alongside the establishment of Hindu kingdoms that had mysticism as one of their educational disciplines. Superstition compels individuals to venerate a tree, stone, or other revered artefact, believed to possess the power to avert calamity or provide advantage. This is one consequence of superstition. If this is the case, the belief in the oneness of God's lordship and the belief in the worship of a servant will become weak and ruined. Superstition can be defined as the belief in anything that is false or unfounded (Titit Lestari, Mito Aceh, Banda Aceh: Balai Pelestarian Sejarah dan Nilai Tradisional, 2012). The term "superstition" is derived from the combination of two words: "super," meaning beyond or supernatural, and "state," referring to a statement or declaration. Superstition can be defined as the attribution of meaning to phenomena that are considered to be supernatural in nature. Superstition, as defined, is associated with concepts such as folk belief (Ridha Hasnul Ulya, et al. Cultural expression of superstition in Minangkabau community, February 2018).

b. The Source of Superstition According American and Madurese Cultures

Superstitions have been present since ancient times and are widely accepted by individuals through oral tradition. The emergence of superstition can be attributed to the impact of prevailing scientific knowledge during that age. Similarly, there are still individuals residing in rural areas who maintain a belief in superstition. Dynamism doctrines encompass a belief in the supernatural or sacred nature of various entities, including humans, animals, plants, and other objects.

Superstition originates from the concept of dynamism, which asserts that everything possesses inherent power or strength capable of influencing the outcome of human endeavours in sustaining existence (Zhu, 2020).

c. The Examples of Superstition from The Culture of American and Madurese

1. Number 13

The number 13 is commonly seen as an inauspicious number. Numerous melancholic tales from ancient times have fostered the belief that the number was seen as an ill-fated one. One narrative is the Last Supper, which refers to the final meal of Jesus Christ. During this event, a total of thirteen individuals were present, including Christ and the twelve apostles. Some people consider this to be an instance of ill fortune due to the fact that one of the thirteen individuals, namely Judas Iscariot, betrayed Jesus Christ.

Starting in the 1890s, several English publications associated the number thirteen with the belief that Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus, was the thirteenth person seated at the table during the last meal [16]. One of her legends recounts the tale of a disloyal and treacherous woman who, at the final meal, occupied seat number 13.

2. The 13th of Friday

When Friday the 13th was an unfortunate day. Friday the 13th is a rare occurrence, typically happening just once or at most three times a year.

3. Incorporating the Salt

According to belief, the inadvertent usage of salt is considered a negative sign, indicating the presence of a malevolent entity within one's gaze. In such a situation, it is customary to place the spilled salt on one's shoulders. By removing that small amount of salt, you can protect yourself from the malevolent gaze that is directed towards you, thereby ensuring your salvation.

4. The occurrence of three negative events in succession

It signifies that in the event of a negative outcome, there exists an additional alternative or possibility. If you were to inadvertently forget your phone and two mishaps were to occur simultaneously, it would exacerbate the situation, as a third unfortunate event would ensue.

5. Penny

A penny is a coin with one side featuring a depiction of a head and the other side featuring a different symbol, sometimes referred to as a tail. According to popular belief, if we discover a coin on the road with the head facing up, it is considered auspicious to pick it up and keep it, as it is believed to bring good luck. However, if you come upon a penny with its tail side up, it is advisable to flip it to the head side. Nevertheless, you are not allowed to claim the penny for yourself, as it should be left for someone else to discover. Furthermore, it is believed that this action will bestow good fortune upon the individual.

6. Four-Leaf Clover

The term "clover" refers to the plant known as clover. If American clover had grown in the yard, it would have been removed as a nuisance or maybe disrupted another plant. Discovering a four-leaf clover signifies that you will experience good fortune in multiples of four.

Title: Wish Upon a Shooting Star

If we desire to witness a meteoroid streaking through the sky, our request will be fulfilled.

7. Wishbone

The wishbone is located in the neck of a bird, such as a chicken or a duck, and it links to the chest. When wishbones are fractured by two individuals, typically using their pinkies, if one person receives a larger portion, their desire is said to be more likely to be fulfilled.

8. Silent Rock

The Silent Rock is a widely recognized superstition in the United States. However, it is imperative for everyone who happens to walk by to maintain complete silence and refrain from exhaling. Alternatively, it has the potential to be a catastrophic event. Each nation possesses superstitions that genuinely pique the curiosity of tourists. Even highly developed countries like the United States nevertheless hold onto numerous beliefs that defy rationality. One of these books is *Silent Rock* (Afra sugesti, *Zaman Sudah Modern*, 16 Mitos Aneh Ini Masih Diyakini Orang AS).

d. The Example of Superstition in Madura

1. Crows Over the House

If there are crows flying or circling over the house or perched, it could be a sign that one of the occupants of the house will be seriously ill or even die.

2. Sitting in Front of the Door is Hard to Get a Mate

This myth may have been deliberately created by ancient people so that no one intentionally sat in front of the door. Because as it is known that sitting in front of the door will only prevent people from wanting to enter the house, including people who want to propose to them later.

3. Don't Sit in Front of the Door

The myth is that it's hard to get a mate, a lot of people think of this as a fact. In fact, sitting in front of the door is just blocking the nurse in the sense of making it difficult for people who want to go through the door, so this superstition was born.

4. Eating Rice Until it Runs Out

Eating rice until it runs out later the rice cries too often used by the Madurese community in particular to educate children so that they are not wasted even though it is impossible for rice to cry.

5. The Engagement

The practice of early betrothal is typically observed within rural family units, predominantly among socioeconomically disadvantaged households. The decision to engage in this arrangement was based on the fact that girls are typically of a young age and still attending school, which leads parents to refrain from immediately arranging marriages for their daughters with males.

Regarding the cultural practices in these villages, it is customary for the community to strongly uphold the concept that if a man approaches a woman with a marriage proposal, it is obligatory for the woman to accept it. This is because rejecting such proposals might lead to negative consequences, such as a decrease in the demand for marriage among women. A young woman who has successfully sold or has applied is a source of pride for her parents (Sri Jayanti Sukma, superstition, journal: OKARA, September 2021).

e. Modern People Remain Believe The Superstition

Over time, these superstitions should be dispelled through rational explanations, although some individuals still adhere to this principle. This is because individuals construct these beliefs and experience a sense of emotional support from these superstitions. As an illustration, suppose you are presented with a bracelet that possesses the ability to bestow 'fortune'. Subsequently, by donning the bracelet during specific examinations, you have successfully achieved commendable academic results. This is the point at which you begin to have faith and cultivate your own belief in the bracelet (Sri Jayanti Sukma, superstition, journal: OKARA, September 2021).

CONCLUSION

Superstitions are ancestral beliefs that lack scientific validation. The term "superstition" originates from the Arabic word "al-tahayul," which denotes the concepts of fiction, supposition, and fantasy. Superstition, as defined, refers to a belief in the supernatural that is derived from cleverness rather than Islamic roots.



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Superstitions have been present since ancient times and are upheld by individuals through oral tradition.

The emergence of superstition can be attributed to the impact of prevailing scientific knowledge during that age. Over time, it is expected that these superstitions would be dispelled via the use of rational explanations. However, there are still those who persist in adhering to this belief. Due to the fact that As an illustration, you will be given a bracelet that is said to possess the ability to bring you "good fortune". Subsequently, by adorning a bracelet, you have the opportunity to wear it during particular examinations and achieve commendable academic results. At this point, you will form and cultivate your own conviction regarding the bracelet.

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